C	Seaside Sparrow Vesper Sparrow	PB W 9 Sep; 13 Oct-7 May; 6 Jul
С	Lark Sparrow Bachman's Sparrow	SB 7 Apr - 26 Dec (-7 Feb)
A,H	Slate-colored Junco Oregon Junco (2) Tree Sparrow (1)	W 27 Sep - 21 Apr; summers 26 Dec; 2-17 Mar
c c	Chipping Sparrow Clay-colored Sparrow (10) (s) Field Sparrow	15 Feb-16 Mar PB 16 Sep - 17 Dec PB
H C C	Harris' Sparrow (3) White-crowned Sparrow White - throated Sparrow	7 Dec, 28 Dec, 7 Apr W 5 Oct - 18 May W 20 Sep - 24 May; summers
C C	Fox Sparrow Lincoln's Sparrow Swamp Sparrow Song Sparrow	W 7 Oct - 7 Apr W 28 Sep - 25 May W 14 Sep - 15 May
C	Lapland Longspur	WB 22 Sep - 15 May; summers W 7 Nov - 27 Mar 26 Oct; 5 Dec - 17 Jan

	Current Accidental Extirpated Extinct Introduced Hypothetical	318 33 6 2 5	NOTE: 19 Hypothetical species are also Accidental; 9 Current species are without specimen or photograph, for 6 of these 9 we have over a dozen records each.
		391	less 19 = 372 total

Compiler - Thomas A. Imhof 1036 Pike Road Birmingham, Alabama 35218

NEW DATA (continued from page 5)

6140 Arbutus Drive Pensacola, Fla. 32504

THE 1970 ALABAMA CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Birds of prey took the limelight on the 1970 Alabama Christmas Counts with four Peregrine Falcons at Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, one at Birmingham (its 5th Christmas count record), a Bald Eagle at Eufaula and another within the count period at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, and visitors from the West and North at Wheeler in the form of an immature Swainson's Hawk (6th record for Alabama and 2nd for the Tennessee Valley of this primarily western species) and a light-phased Rough-legged Hawk (which, although a rare and erratic northern visitor, is being noted almost annually in Alabama-see Imhof. Thomas A., "The Season Fall 1969", Alabama Birdlife (1970), 17(3-4): 66-7.) Wheeler also reported an inland state record in abundance for Sparrow Hawks (25), while the large congregation of 82 Turkey Vultures at Mobile, seen by several parties in marshes off the Cochrane Causeway, set a state record. A female Pigeon Hawk at Birmingham was its 3rd Christmas count record.

It is interesting to note that both Bald Eagles were immatures as are approximately 50% of the Brown Pelicans at Dauphin Island. Thus, in contrast to the reported virtual nesting failure of pelicans on the Southern California Coast for the past two breeding seasons, it appears that a few young birds have been successfully hatched during recent 'years in Alabama or the areas where our migrants breed notwithstanding the great decline in numbers of such fish-eating species from populations prior to the last decade. Observations of the eagle at Eufaula, presumably the same bird, spanned the period Nov. 4, 1970 to Feb 4, 1971. The single bird at Wheeler has been reported intermittently and may be compared with two or three there last winter (for a brief report on the recent history of Bald Eagles at Wheeler, see the 1969 Alabama Christmas Count article in Vol. 18, No. 1).

The waterfowl program at Eufaula Refuge showed increases over its 1969 Lower Coastal Plain record numbers in the cases of Black Ducks (4.000). Am, Widgeons (3,500), Wood Ducks (2,500), Green-winged Teal (2,500). Shovelers (2.000), Hooded Mergansers (250), Ruddy Ducks (150) and Redheads (50), those for Wood Ducks and Shovelers being state records in abundance. Its count of 405 Savannah Sparrows is also a state record and its 25 Blue-winged Teal a winter record for the Lower Coastal Plain. However, compared with last year, there were marked reductions in Common Goldeneyes, Ring-necked Ducks, Great Blue Herons, both Mourning and Ground Doves and most hawks. Wheeler Refuge set an inland record in abundance for Am. Widgeons with over 6500 and reported an apparent Christmas count record for that count of 53 Great Blue Herons. Also recorded were relatively high numbers of gulls for the Tennessee Valley, 33 Bonaparte's and approximately 500 Ring-billed being identified. A Whistling Swan, unlawfully shot there during the count period, appears to be another of the all-too-manycases of misidentification by hunters. Birmingham reported a female Oldsquaw (its first count record) and 10 Red-breasted Mergansers (a high count for the Mountain Region).

Among significant reports in the shorebird category were a Dunlin at Birmingham (its first Christmas count record and the first inland winter record for the state), Spotted Sandpipers at Birmingham and Eufaula (the second Christmas count record for Birmingham and first for Eufaula), the large number of 59 Greater Yellowlegs at Wheeler (setting an inland record in abundance for the state), the 21 Avocets at Mobile (its 7th Christmas count record out of the last eight years for that basically western shorebird), and high numbers of Semipalmated (416) and Western (100) Sandpipers also at Mobile. Other non-passerine reports of

interest were Eared Grebes, one each at Mobile and Dauphin Island, 3 Am. Bitterns and 8 Common Egrets inland at Eufaula Refuge, a Ring-necked Pheasant of the introduced Iranian race that has bred in the wild at Wheeler Refuge within the count period there, and a good number of 12 Ground Doves on the Mobile count.

With discovery of a new flock, the 17 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at Birmingham set a state record in abundance over the previous high of 12. At Wheeler high counts for the Tennessee Valley were recorded for Pileateds (27) and many of the other woodpeckers.

The most noteworthy report of a summer resident wintering in the state was the Chuck-will's-widow at Spring Hill College on the Mobile count. Other summer residents that rarely or uncommonly winter in the coastal plain were a Yellow-crowned Night Heron on the Dauphin Island count, three Rough-winged Swallows on the Mobile count, and White-eyed Vireos on both of them.

Heading other significant passerine reports was a Yellow-headed Blackbird that had been at Dauphin Island for about a week. An Oregon Junco, closely identified at Birmingham, was the second record for the state, and the almost 1400 Slate-colored Juncos there set a state record in abundance. Also at Birmingham, a hugh flock of Cedar Waxwings at an abandoned nursery led to a record state count of 1949 for that species. Other interesting passerine reports included a Grasshopper Sparrow at Mobile, 21 Hermit Thrushes at Wheeler Refuge (a high count for the Tennessee Valley), and from Birmingham, two Brewer's Blackbirds (its first count record), a Lincoln's Sparrow (its second Christmas count record) and a Short-billed Marsh Wren (local in winter north of the coastal plain).

In contrast to the last two winters, this was not a "finch" year—there have been no Evening Grosbeaks and practically no Pine Siskins, a notable exception being the two reported from as far south as Mobile. Purple Finches were reported on only three counts and in very low numbers. Even the Goldfinch was down with the exception of Dauphin Island. The Red-breasted Nuthatch, which often accompanies an influx or northern finches, was reported on only one count (two birds at Birmingham) compared with reports on or within the count period of 6 of 7 counts in 1969 and 5 of 7 in 1968.

The Cardinal seems to be doing well, at least in the northern part of the state and especially when considered on the basis of birds per party-hour, as it set Christmas count records at Wheeler Refuge and Jacksonville. On the other hand, Eastern Bluebirds seem to be faring rather badly in urban count areas, with the 34 at Birmingham being an all-time low on that Christmas count and the 7 at Mobile appearing to be the second lowest Christmas count number there. Myrtle Warblers were reported in comparatively very low numbers on all counts, a situation that has received much comment from observers this winter.

On the 1970 counts, 168 species were recorded (two more than last year plus the Rock Dove being initially reported this year), and five additional species were seen within the count period. Four of the state's ornithological regions were sampled—Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge (WWR) in the Tenn. Valley; Birmingham (Bhm) and Jacksonville (Jv1) in the Mountain Region; Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge (EWR) in the Lower Coastal Plain; and Mobile (Mob) and Dauphin Island—Bellingrath Gardens (DI) on the Gulf Coast. (For nearby counts in the adjacent states of Fla., Ga., Miss., and Tenn. that would be of interest to Alabama observers, see Vol. 25, No. 2 of American Birds, now incorporating Audubon Field Notes,) Birds seen on the Alabama counts were as follows, those indicated by the symbol * being reported during the count period (Dec. 22 through Jan. 3) but not on the count date:

	WWR	Bhm	Jv1	EWR	Mob	DI
Shorebirds (cont.)	13	36	_	100	78	<u>-</u>
Least Sandpiper Dunlin (or Red-backed Sandpiper)	-	1	-	-	425 15	7
Short-billed Dowltoner	-	_	_	-	416 100	2 40
Semipalmated Sandpiper Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	10	140
Sanderling	_	-	-	-	21	-
Am. Avocet Gulls and Terns	14	_		1	168	755
Herring Gull	501	-	-	24	645 7	143 30
Ring-billed Gull Laughing Gull	33	_	-	4	14	14 39
Bonaparte's Guil	-	-	-	-	45 14	5
Forster's Tern Common Tern	-	-	-	-	22 12	18 19
Royal Tern	-	-	-	_	192	îí
Caspian Tern Black Skimmer	-	-	_		100	_
Pigeons and Doves Rock Dove	44	475 463	10 44	- 50	114	50
Mourning Dove	632	403	-	8	12	3
Ground Dove Owls		_	_	_	1	-
Barn Owl	1		-	2	2	-
Screech Owl Great Horned Owl	1	3	-	_	*	-
Barred Owl	-			_	1	_
Nightjars Chuck-will's-widow	-	-	-			25
Kingfishers	3	19	5	2	11	
Belted Kingfisher Woodpeckers	33	113	16	15	34	16 1
Yellow-shafted Flicker Pileated Woodpecker	27	21 74	3 7	1 7	18	9
Red-bellied Woodpecker	48 -	40	7	-	9 15	2 7
Red-headed Woodpecker Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	· 15	28 10	6	2	2	1
Hairy Woodpecker	52	67	11	5	4	2
Downy Woodpecker Red-cockaded Woodpecker	-	17	-			4
Flycatchers	1	9	-	6	10	4
Eastern Phoebe Larks	156		7	-	-	-
Horned Lark	1)0		_	_	115	25
Swallows Tree Swallow	-	_	_	-	3	-
Rough-winged Swallow Jays and Crows	1	297	90	39	71	39
Blue Jay	114 40,000	168	74	26	78 156	32 180
Common Crow Fish Crow	´ -	-	-	-		4
mitmice	170	286	11	19 19	17 14	4
Carolina Chickadee Tufted Titmouse	48	188	6	1,7		_
Nuthatches White-breasted Nuthatch	1	29	1 -	-	_	-
Red-breasted Nuthaton	-	82 82	_	5	14	13
Brown-headed Nuthaten	-	7	*	1	3	2
Creepers Brown Creeper	7			1	2	1
Wrens House Wren	11	2 10	-	1	-	3
Winter Wren	3	1	13	14	21	25
Bewick's Wren Carolina Wren	88	93	13	-	3	4
Long-billed Marsh Wren Short-billed Marsh (or Sedge) Wren	-	1	-	-	-	
Thrashers	79	233	30	9	91 2	57 6
Mockingbird Catbird	-	1		8	11	10
Brown Thrasher	15			1	2,000	1,500
Thrushes Am. Robin	12 21			5	3	1
Hermit Thrush	13				7	19
Eastern Bluebird Gnatcatchers and Kinglets					. 2	4 2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Golden-crowned Kinglet	33	7 9		- 5 3 22		15
Golden-crowned Kinglet Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2.		•	•		_
Pipits Water Pipit		7 4	8 -	_ 17		
mave+ 1-p						

Loons Common Loon	ww	R Bhr	n Jv	1 EWR	Mot	b
Grebes			-			
Horned Grebe Eared Grebe		• _				
Pied-billed Grebe Pelicans and Allies	-	-		- -	30 1	
white Pelican		2 49	1	1 2	27	
Brown Pelican Double-crested Cormorant	-				4	
ACCUIT DIFUS	-	· -	-	· -	13	
Great Blue Heron Little Blue Heron	53	8	ä) 1:0		
Common. (or Am.) Egret	-	-	-		4 2	
Snowy Egret Louisiana Heron	_	-	-	U	91	
Yellow-crowned Night Heron Am. Bittern	_	-			64 5	
Ducks, Geese and Swans	-	_	-	- 3	-	
Whistling Swan Canada Goose		_		,	-	
Snow Goose	34,000	-	_	133	-	
Blue Goose Blue-Snow Geese hybrids	95 1,500	-	-	5	*	
Mailard	14	_	_	23	*	
Black Duck Gadwall	14,061 2,631	-	-	15,000	25	1
Pintail Pintail	2,125	1	6	4,000 500	7	
Green-winged Teal Blue-winged Teal	2,331 166	-	_	2,000	224 603	3
Am. Widgeon (or Baldnata)		-	-	2,500 25	90	
Shoveler Wood Duck	6,547 65	~	18	3,500	248	1
Redhead	30	-	-	2,000 2,500	187	_
Ring-necked Duck Canvasback	27	143	~	50	5 4	
Greater Scaup	-6	35	1 ~	50 50	17	•
Lesser Scaup Common Goldeneye	<u>-</u>	8	-	_	. 15 2	•
Bufflehead	2	1	-	4 3	62	40
Oldsquaw Ruddy Duck	*	- 1	-	25	3 13	70
Hooded Merganean	_	11		150		-
Common (or Am) Monages	171	*	_	150 250	80 9	*
Hawks	_	10	-	-	-	-
Turkey Vulture Black Vulture	_			-	14	17
Cooper's Hawk	_	_	2	-	82	8
Red-tailed Hawk Red-shouldered Hawk	20	1	-	-	2	3
Swainson's Howle	1	10 3	2	12	9	11
Rough-legged Hawk Bald Eagle	1 1	-	_	3	1	1
Marsh Hawk		-	_	- 1	-	_
Peregrine Falcon Pigeon Hawk	. 3	-	2	25	10	3
Sparrow Hawk (on a.	-	1 1	-	4	-	_
Quail and Allies Bob-white	25	6	1	2	15	15
Ring-necked Pheagant (T.	78 *	60	26	22	23	
Turkey Rails and Allies	_	-	-	-		30
King Kail			-	-	-	-
Clapper Rail Virginia Rail	_	-	-	-	_	1
SOPA	-	-	-	-	3	4
Common (or Florida) Gallinule	_	-	-	1	2	1 2
Shorebirds	95	141	49 2	,000 12.	.585	1
Am. Oystercatcher Semipalmated Plover	_	_		,	,,0,	80
Piping Plover Killdeer	-	-	-	_	31	2 8
Black-bellied Ployer	249	191	~ 7		2	2
nuddy Turnstone	-	-/-	7	6 <u>3</u> -	69 18	35
Am. Woodcock Common Snipe	-	4	-	-	_	8 2
Spotted Sandpiper Willet	91	26	-	1 150	22	-
Greater Yellowless	-	1	-	2	2	.10
Lesser Yellowlegs	59	_	_	ī	- 5	7
	-	-	-	_	12	7
	4.0					

<u>DI</u>

	WWR	Bhm	Jvl	EWR	Mob	DI
Waxwings						_
Cedar Waxwing	-	1,949	100	3	82	45
Shrikes Loggerhead Shrike		10				_
Starlings	11	10	10	17	4	5
Common Starling	375,000	1,451	341	3	408	750
Vireos	317,000	1,791	241	3	400	750
White-eyed Vireo	_	_		_	2	1
Solitary (or Blue-headed) Vireo	-	_	-	_	ī	2
Wood Warblers			-		_	_
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	1	-	_	10	6
Myrtle Warbler	11	12	2	60	3 3 5	250
Pine Warbler	2	19	-	15	12	12
Palm Warbler	-	4	-	2	-	1
Common Yellowthroat	-	2	-	5	3	2
Weaver Finches	***	5-0		_		
House Sparrow	735	578	27	7	347	60
Blackbirds Eastern Meadowlark	268	172	84	107	60	50
Yellow-headed Blackbird	200	173	04	187	60	50
Red-winged Blackbird	75,000	764	17	250,000	5,000	1 2,500
Rusty Blackbird	77	36	11	- 000,000	5,000	2,500
Brewer's Blackbird	' -	2	_	_	45	9
Boat-tailed Grackle	_	_	_	-	250	
Common Grackle	25,000	1,747	1,566	_	4,975	1,900
Brown-headed Cowbird	25,000	100	4		34	160
Finches and Sparrows	•				=	
Cardinal	438	403	120	76	55	35
Purple Finch	2	14	_	-	8	-
Pine Siskin	_	*	-	-	2	-
Am. Goldfinch	89	251		15	58	310
Rufous-sided Towhee	123	224	69	31	41	12
Savannah Sparrow Grasshopper Sparrow	45	7 0	10	405	43	70
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	_	-	_	_	1	-
Seaside Sparrow	_	-	-	_	_	5
Vesper Sparrow		5	_	83	_	3 2
Slate-colored Junco	78	1,388	135	105	2	ű,
Oregon Junco	'-	1			_	
Chipping Sparrow	_	57	_	107	5	8
Field Sparrow	93	281	169	45	19	3
White-crowned Sparrow	17					
White-throated Sparrow	606	705	63	130	389	700
Fox Sparrow	22	ií	3	- J	3-7	,
Lincoln's Sparrow	_	1	_	_	_	_
Swamp Sparrow	68	90	30	_	72	8
Song Sparrow	173	405	29	77	36	6
Makai Talania Nasa	7-2 -/-					
Total Individuals (see note below)	633,544	15,328	3,316	286,962	32,277	10,771
Total Species on count	85	89	52	90	131	124
Total Species within count period	90	93	53	90	134	129
, nathan count period	,0	23	,,,	90	1)4	169

Note: Total individuals at Wheeler Refuge include 23,000 ducks and 1,000 gulls, reported on an aerial survey of the count area, and three buteo hawks, unidentified as to species.

For descriptions of the Wheeler Refuge, Jacksonville and Eufaula Refuge count areas, see the report of the 1969 Alabama Christmas Counts in Vol. 18, No. 1; for those of the Birmingham, Mobile and Dauphin Island-Bellingrath Gardens count areas, see the report of the 1968 Alabama Christmas Counts in Vol. 17, No. 1. Comments by the compilers, other details respecting the counts (all taken in circles of 15-mile diameter except where indicated) and participants (names of party leaders underscored where reported) were as follows:

Wheeler Wildlife Refuge: Jan. 2; 6:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Clear; 25° to 57°; wind SW, 5-10 mph. 26 observers in 5-6 parties; 53 party-hours (22 by car, 30 on foot, 1 by airplane); 327 party-miles (241 by car, 16 on foot, 70 by airplane). Blackbird-starling roost was at Point Mallard as last year and was estimated at 50% of 1969 population; crow roost this year was on south side of Tennessee River, near but separate from blackbird-starling roost. Observations of Swainson's and Rough-legged Hawks were studies at leisure of birds both at rest and in flight. Participants: Thomas Z. Atkeson, Jr. (refuge manager), J. Russell Bailey, Jr., Richard Bays, Thomas L. Bickley, Jr., Michael L. Bierly (compiler), Ron Bisbee, Lynn P. Childers, Fred Daugette, W. Cecil Davis, Leo Derden, Carolyn Garrett, Henry H. Grammer, John M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof, Helen H. Kittinger, Ronald D. Kittinger, Anne Lee, Renee and Robin McDonald, Bobby Meadows, Gene Prestridge, Elberta G. Reid, Robert R. Reid, Jr., F. Bob Truett, George Williams, Jr., and Harriett H. Wright.

Birmingham: Dec. 26; 6:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Clear; 19° to 49°; wind NNW, 0-15 mph; water level at Lake Purdy Dam - 50' (10' from top) as compared with 47.5' in 1969 and 46' in 1968. 38 observers in 11 parties and at feeders; 101 party-hours (27 by car, 74 on foot); 490 party-miles (442 by car, 48 on foot). Participants: J. Russell Bailey, Jr., Naomi G. Banks, Andrew K. Bates, Raymond D. Bates, Mary I. Burks, G. Bradley Carlisle, Gregory C. Carlisle, Dale J. Carruthers, John B. Cox, Walter F. Coxe, Larry Ferguson, Corinne Glaze, Fleurette and Jerome M. Hershman and boys, Dan C. Holliman, Michael J. Hopiak, Ruth R. Horsley, John M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof (compiler), Helen H. Kittinger, Richard J. Kittinger, Ronald D. Kittinger, Donald, Renee and Robin McDonald, Ann L. Miller, James V. Peavy, Jr., Morton H. Perry, Millard F. Prather, Elberta G. Reid, Robert R. Reid, Jr., Mary Lee Robinson, James W. Shepherd, Idalene F. Snead, Jo Susenbach, Helen B. and Percy L. Thigpen, and Virginia R. Thrasher.

<u>Jacksonville</u>: Dec. 30; 6:45 AM to 4:00 PM. Cloudy; 34° to 42° ; wind E, 7 mph. 4 observers in 2 parties; 13 party-hours (8 by car, 5 on foot); 140 party-miles (135 by car, 5 on foot). Participants: Richard E. Ambrose (compiler), William J. Calvert, and Kenneth E. and Tim Landers.

Eufaula Wildlife Refuge: Jan. 9; 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Slight fog to partly overcast; 40° to 50°; wind NE, 5 mph. 10 observers in 4 parties; 28 party-hours; 34 party-miles (30 by car, 4 on foot). Count restricted to refuge area; waterfowl data based on current refuge inventory information. Participants: Neva Brunton, Ernest Corley, Julian L. and Rosemary T. Dusi (compilers), Dennis Holland (refuge manager), Plorence Lynn, Marjory C. Lyons, Harriett and Tom Meadows, and B. F. Young.

Mobile: Dec. 26; 5:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Clear; 32° to 45°; wind N, 1-15 mph. 17 observers in 9 parties; 60 party-hours (35 by car, 25 on foot); 396.5 party-miles (373 by car, 23.5 on foot). Participants: Lois P. Archer, Clara L. Caffey, Leo and Tom Denton, Fr. J. L. Dorn, Mary A. Gaillard, M. Wilson Gaillard, Richard E. Hayward, Jr. (compiler), Edwin Laroux, Max P. McGill, Louise N. McKinstry, Joy and Ned Russ, Genevieve and James R. Spafford, Elizabeth R. Toenes, and William Tonsmeire.

Dauphin Island-Bellingrath Gardens: Jan. 2; 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Clear; 35° to 61°; wind S, 15-25 mph. 21 observers in 10 parties; 79 party-hours (28 by car, 51 on foot); 474 party-miles (445 by car, 29 on foot). Participants: Fred E. Bowers, Clara L. Caffey, Bill and Leo Denton, Fr. J. L. Dorn, Mary A. Gaillard, M. Wilson Gaillard (compiler), Sybil C. Hanks, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Laroux, Max P. McGill, Louise N. McKinstry, Awilda T. Mitchell, Lila Porter, Joy and Ned Russ, Genevieve and James R. Spafford, Alice G. Tait, Elizabeth R. Toenes, and William Tonsmeire.

Robert R. Reid, Jr., Counts Editor

IN MEMORIAM *** ROBERT W. SKINNER

WHEREAS, Robert W. Skinner of Montgomery, Alabama, was for many years a member of the Alabama Ornithological Society and served it as president and director and in other official capacities;

WHEREAS, he generously gave of his time and efforts in collecting crnithological data and surveying birdlife in Alabama, conducting educational programs on the same, promoting conservation and serving as taxidermist and field biologist for the Alabama State Department of Conservation; and

WHEREAS, his untimely death is a great loss to the Society and the study of ornithology in Alabama;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Alabama Ornithological Society, at its winter meeting held on January 23, 1971, that this Society, for itself and its members, does hereby express its extreme regret upon Mr. Skinner's death and the loss of his friendship and assistance and does hereby extend its deepest sympathy to his family and his associates in said Department of Conservation.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, Wilma J. Lindberg, Secretary of the Alabama Ornithological Society, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution unanimously adopted by said society at its winter meeting in Baldwin County, Alabama, on January 23, 1971.

WITNESS my signature as said secretary this although day of January, 1971.

Wilma]