

Spring 1969 Tower Casualties in Birmingham

by Michael Lee Bierly

Regular collections of bird casualties were continued at WAPI and WBRC television towers in Birmingham for the spring of 1969. Tower descriptions can be found in Alabama Birdlife 16:4(34), 17:2(46).

Daily trips were begun on March 15 and terminated May 22 representing 69 days. During this time a total of 44 individuals of 17 species were picked up. The first casualty was March 23 and the last May 17. The largest casualty days were May 7 when 9 Red-eyed Vireos were found and May 8 with 7 individuals of 5 species.

The Red-eyed Vireo spanned the longest period, 28 days, from April 20 through May 17, and also accounted for the greatest number of individuals of one species, 24. This species has consistently been the most numerous victim for the two previous collection years.

No extreme dates were recorded. The presence of a Red-bellied Woodpecker and a Rufous-sided Towhee were considered noteworthy because of the species permanent residency status in the area. These are the only two permanent resident species recorded at these towers. Table 1 lists species, dates and number of individuals.

Thanks to Andy Bates, Ricky Kittinger, Elberta Reid and Robert Reid for assisting with collections, and the Samford University Biology Department for the use of its facilities.

Table 1. Species, date, number casualties spring 1969 WAPI and WBRC television towers. Individual numbers in parenthesis when needed.

Species	Number	Date
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	May 9, 17.
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	May 8.
Catbird	1	May 8.
Wood Thrush	1	April 6.
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	April 6.
Red-eyed Vireo	24	April 20(3), 23(1), 29(1), May 6(1), 7(9), 9(2), 11(1), 14(1), 16(1), 17(4).
Black-and-White Warbler	1	April 20.
Yellow Warbler	1	May 14.
Magnolia Warbler	1	May 12.
Blackburnian Warbler	1	May 10.
Northern Waterthrush	2	April 23, May 8.
Kentucky Warbler	2	May 8.
Yellow-breasted Chat	2	May 8.
Canada Warbler	1	May 6.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	May 17.
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	March 23.
Swamp Sparrow	1	April 25.
Total	44	