

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON A NESTING ORCHARD ORIOLE

Early in May I was sure the Orchard Orioles were building in the elm tree just outside my dining room windows because he sat in the tree so much and sang for hours. It wasn't until the 24th of May that I found it, so cleverly had she woven it into the leaves at the end of one of the lowest branches about 25 feet above the ground. On the 3rd of June I saw them feeding the young. Three days later when Harriett Wright came to take pictures, she discovered that one of the four babies was a Brown-headed Cowbird. That was bad enough, but then real tragedy struck. Something happened to the female oriole and I didn't see her any more after the 6th. The male went on "overtime" and continued to feed them, one evening working as late as 8 o'clock. On the 10th I just happened to look up at the nest and saw one of the young sitting on the edge of the nest flapping its wings. I ran upstairs where I could get a closer look, and it was the cowbird. While I stood there and watched, it left the nest in a series of hops and jumps. It would rest for a minute, then flutter away again. The last I saw of it, before it disappeared into the leafy interior of the tree, it was perhaps 8 feet away from the nest. So far as I know, the male oriole never paid it any more attention. He kept coming back to his own babies every few minutes and continued until the 10th when he brought them out of the nest. He kept them in the yard for several days and on the 16th I saw him with two of the young ones in the tomato patch. Then I didn't see any of them any more. I hope they took to the woods and are doing well. I know that I will never hear the lovely song of the Orchard Oriole without thinking about how faithful that male was to his little family.

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THE GREAT (or European) CORMORANT,  
A NEW BIRD SPECIES FOR ALABAMA

The Great Cormorant, Phalacrocorax carbo, like the Cattle Egret is a widely distributed Old World species that appears to be establishing itself successfully in the Americas. In Eurasia, this cormorant occurs, breeding as far south as South Africa and Australia. In America it breeds from Greenland to Nova Scotia, and in the last 40 years has extended its winter range south along the Atlantic coast from Long Island to Florida. Within the last 5 or so years it has occurred twice at St. Mark's Refuge, Florida.

On Oct. 29 & 31, 1972, an immature was seen at Gulf Breeze near Pensacola by Robert and Luch Duncan, and Ted, Amy and Vance Furnans. Another immature, probably the same bird, was seen about 20 miles to the west at Alabama Point on Nov. 21 by T.A. Imhof and James V. Peavy. This latter bird was observed at leisure for 15 or more minutes about 2:00 P.M. while it sat on a ten-foot high buoy-like structure near the rock jetties at the east side of the mouth of Ferdido Bay. It was much bigger than any of the 180-odd Double-crested Cormorants we had seen earlier that day, however, no other

- Robin - Oct. 7, Dauphin Is. (LRT), earliest Gulf Coast.  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet - 3, Oct. 7, Riverton, Colbert Co. (TAI, JMI), earliest Tennessee Valley.  
 White-eyed Vireo - 65, Sept. 16, B'ham Fall Count (B.A.S.), maximum fall state.  
 Solitary Vireo - Sept. 6, Dauphin Is. (LRT), earliest state.  
 Philadelphia Vireo - Oct. 20, 1 banded Dauphin Is. (MEM); 5--3 banded—, Ft. Morgan (TAI,mob); w/4 prior Oct. 20 records, this is a 6-way tie latest state.  
 Trochontary Warbler - 2, Sept. 16, B'ham (HHW), latest Mount. R.  
 Cape May Warbler - Oct. 22, banded, Dauphin Is. (REH), latest Gulf Coast except Nov. 25, 1960 record.  
 Myrtle W. - Oct. 7, Riverton, Colbert Co. (TAI,JMI), earliest Tennessee Valley.  
 Audubon's Wa. - Oct. 20, Ft. Morgan (TAI,AJM), 2nd fall record state.  
 La. Waterthrush - Sept. 19, Dauphin Is. (LRT,ATM), latest Gulf Coast.  
 Canada W. - Oct. 7, Riverton (TAI,JMI), latest Tennessee Valley.  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird - male, Sept. 6, Marion (HHK), 2nd & earlier inland record; Oct. 13,15,20, Dauphin Is. (G&JS,LRT), latest Gulf Coast.  
 Orchard Oriole - Sept. 27, Magnolia Springs (PFC), latest state.  
 Rusty Blackbird - 1, Nov. 20, Atmore (TAI,JVP), earliest Lower Coastal Plain.  
 Brewer's Blackbird - 1, Nov. 20, Atmore (TAI,JVP), earliest Lower Coastal Plain.  
 Scarlet Tanager - female banded Oct. 21, Ft. Morgan (TAI,mob), latest Gulf Coast.  
 Indigo Bunting - 2, Nov. 21, Ft. Morgan (JVP), latest Gulf Coast, except winter records.  
 Evening Grosbeak - 8, Nov. 18, Cahaba R., South Bibb Co. (HHW, B.A.S.,mob), earliest Upper Coastal Plain.  
 House Finch - Sept. 16, B'ham Airport (GC), 2nd state record.  
 Grasshopper Sp. - Oct. 8, banded, Dauphin Is. (REH), earliest Gulf Coast.  
 Red Crossbill - Nov. 29, Adamsville (TAI,AMI), earliest state except 1957 when arrived August.  
 Clay-colored Sparrow - Sept. 13, Foley (PFC), earliest state.

OBSERVERS—Thomas Z. Atkeson, Lois P. Archer, Birmingham Audubon Society, J. Russell Bailey, Michael L. Bierly, Greg Carlisle, P. Fairly Chandler, Amy and Vance Furnans, Joe Gardjos, Lyman E. Goodnight, Donald J. Hulsey, Gerald Hooper, John F. Harsh, Ruth Howell, Sharon and Richard E. (Tuck) Hayward, Anthony M. Imhof, John M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof, Curtis L. Kingsbery, Helen H. Kittinger, James E. Keeler, Joe Knight, Kenneth T. Knapp, Al D. Miller, Ann L. Miller, A. Joseph Murphy, Alwilda T. Mitchell, Frank McDaniel, Gilbert Melcher, Albert and Mini Nonkes, James V. Peavy, E. N. Prestridge, Robert R. Reid, Geneviene and Jim Spafford, Lib R. Toenes, Harriett H. Wright, Jodie Wetzels, Joe Webb, L. A. Wells, Ronnie W. Lewis, Ted Weems, Joe Zolczynski.

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cormorants were in sight at the time and direct comparison was not possible. The side of its larger head was pale yellowish brown, its throat white, breast brown, and belly white to beyond the legs. It showed none of the orange pouch or dark belly of the numerous immature Double-crested Cormorants seen that day.

Our observations were to the southeast with the sun to the west-southwest as we used 30X Bausch & Lomb telescopes. Imhof has seen the bird many years ago in Europe, Peavy never; the Duncans had seen it on the Bay of Fundy this year. We are happy to document this latest advance.

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James V. Peavy, 2630 Cahaba Road, Birmingham 35223.

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF  
THE ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
January 27, 1973

The mid-year meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was held January 26-28, 1973 at Guntersville, Alabama. The Val Monte Hotel served as headquarters. A business meeting of the members was held in the Club Room of the Val Monte Restaurant January 27, 1973 immediately following a buffet dinner at 6:30 P.M. Mike Bierly presided.

The following items of business were brought before the membership:

1. Nominating Committee Report. Helen Kittinger read the slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee. Recommended were: President: Michael Lee Bierly, Vice-President: Dr. Arthur Garrett, Jr., Treasurer: Mrs. Charles J. Mayhew. A motion to accept the slate of officers recommended in the Nominating Committee Report was made by Gussie Arnett and seconded by Margarette Persons. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report. Mary Mayhew gave the financial report... Billing of annual dues notices was discussed. Naomi Banks volunteered to send out notices along with ALABAMA BIRDLIFE if this is feasible.

3. East Lake Resolution. The President, Mike Bierly, described the value of East Lake as a natural resource, and the need to protect it during changes, repairs, and encroachment on East Lake Park. A resolution...to the Birmingham Park and Recreation Board calling for such protection was read by Gussie Arnett. Helen Kittinger moved that the Ala. Ornithological Society adopt the resolution as read. Her motion was seconded by Margarette Persons and passed unanimously.

4. Encroachment on Wheeler Wildlife Refuge. Tom Atkeson reported on the status of the proposed access road to the Interstate Highway. Two of the proposed routes for the road would adversely affect the Refuge. So far as is known, the final decision has not been made. Therefore no action was taken by A.O.S.

No further business was taken up. The President introduced James V. (Buz) Peavy who gave an excellent slide presentation on Big Bend National Park.

Gussie Arnett, Secretary.

Bird Field Report Guntersville State Meeting

January 26-28, 1973

Michael Lee Bierly, compiler

Eighty species of birds were totaled in Guntersville and environs from noon Friday, January 26 through noon Sunday, January 28, 1973, by about 20 participants of the AOS mid-year meeting. Field parties covered Lake Guntersville State Park (formerly Little Mountain State Park), North Sauty and Crow Creek Refuges (Jackson County) and lower Guntersville Lake. The refuges were covered only on the 27th, but all other sites were birded on all meeting dates.

Significant were 925 Ruddy Ducks (900) at North Sauty Refuge and 25 at the Ala. 69 Causeway) on the 27th, believed to be a state maximum. A state park ranger reported that he thought that there was an eagle wintering in a closed camping area and a check on the 26th revealed an immature Bald. A more mature Bald was seen there on the 27th.

The following is a species listing of birds seen with individual numbers noted where possible. Numbers represent highest total on any one day, not a combination of days.

Common Loon 6, Horned Grebe 14, Pied-billed Grebe 17, Great Blue Heron 5, Common Egret 1, Canada Goose 160, Mallard 210, Black Duck 145, Gadwall 50, Green-winged Teal 4, American Widgeon 4, Shoveler 7, Wood Duck 1, Redhead 6, Ring-necked Duck 37, Canvas-back 112 (flock of 100), Lesser Scaup 425, Common Goldeneye 26, Bufflehead 2, Ruddy Duck 925, Hooded Merganser 4, Red-breasted Merganser 3 (2 males), Red-tailed Hawk 4, Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Bald Eagle 2(1), Marsh Hawk 1, Sparrow Hawk 5, Bobwhite, American Coot 1000 (probably many more, species everywhere), Killdeer 10, Herring Gull 5, Ring-billed Gull 70, Bonaparte's Gull 33 (flock probably wintering as 30 at same place Dec. 15, 1972).

Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl 1, Belted Kingfisher 3, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker 1, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, (species Red-breasted Nuthatch seen on top mountain in park on Jan. 23, but area inaccessible during meeting), Brown-headed Nuthatch 15, Brown Creeper 1, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher 4, Robin, Hermit Thrush 1, Eastern Bluebird 10, Golden-crowned Kinglet 11, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2, Cedar Waxwing 30, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling.

Myrtle Warbler 2, Pine Warbler 6, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Cardinal, Evening Grosbeak 4 (Mr. Young of Albertville reported 30-50 regularly at his feeder, first arriving, 12 birds, Dec. 25, 1972), Purple Finch 2, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Slate-colored Junco, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow 2, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow 1, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

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