

Notes (cont.)

(C) Total individuals include the following, unidentified as to species: Wheeler Refuge--14012 ducks and 144 gulls reported from aerial survey, 1 buteo hawk, and 1 rail; Birmingham--10 ducks, and 2 accipiter and 4 buteo hawks; Ft. Morgan--3 yellowlegs, and 1 fly-catcher; and Bay County--181 scaup, 100 other ducks, 1 accipiter hawk, 5 crows, and 1 marsh wren. Others within the count periods, also unidentified as to species, were: Pensacola--hummingbird; and Bay County--night heron.

For descriptions of most count areas and habitats, see *American Birds*, Vol. 26, No. 2, and, for the Alabama counts (except the newly established Ft. Morgan and Gulf Shores counts), *Alabama Birdlife*, Vols. 18 & 19, No. 1. 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 (incl Tenn. R., Flint Creek, Limestone Bay, sloughs managed for waterfowl, and part of Decatur): Dec. 16; 6:30 AM to 5:15 PM. Clear; 18° to 25°; wind NW, 10-30 mph, gusty; river and streams flooded; some refuge roads impassible. 40 observers in 7 parties; 66 party-hours (30 on foot, 35 by car, 1 by airplane); 383 party-miles (10 on foot, 303 by car, 70 by airplane). Blackbird-startling roost at Point Mallard as before; no crow roost in count circle this year. Participants: Thomas Z. Atkeson, Jr. (refuge manager), J. Russell Bailey, Jr., Raymond D. Bates, Richard Bays, Michael L. Bierly (compiler), Helen and Lloyd W. Clayton, Dwight Cooley, Fred Daugeette, W. Cecil Davis, Leo Derden, John A. Dougherty, Dale and Jeanne Dreyfoos, Wallace D. Dreyfoos, Howard M. Einspahr, Ann and Dan Forster, Thomas Hull, David C. Hulse, Charlotte H. and John M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof, Greg D. Jackson, Helen H. Kittinger, W. Roger Maner, Frank McDaniel, Bobby G. Meadows, Ann L. Miller, Alberta G. Reid, Robert R. Reid, Jr., Debbie Rogers, Don Simbeck, P. Bob Truett, Emmett N. Waldrep, Tim Weston, George, Jr., and Morris D. Williams, Harriett H. Wright, and Joe Wright.

Birmingham (incl Oak Mtn., Lk. Purdy, East Lk., Cahaba R., Roberts Field, city and suburbs): Dec. 30; 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Cloudy with rain beginning about 3:00 PM; 54° to 63°; wind SE, 10-38 mph; water levels high (2' from top of Lk. Purdy Dam). 57 observers in 13 parties and at feeders; 123 party-hours (74 on foot, 49 by car); 504 party-miles (74 on foot, 430 by car). Participants: Gussie Arnett, Gertrude Bachmann, J. Russell Bailey, Jr., Naomi G. Banks, Andrew K. Bates, Raymond D. Bates, Bobby, Mary I. and Robert E. Burks, Jr., G. Rod and Lou Butler, G. Bradley Carlisle, Greg C. Carlisle, Frederick T. Carney, James L. Cox, Walter F. Coxe, Bruce Crider, Howard M. Einspahr, Louise Foster, Corinne Glaze, Emmy Lou Grimley, John F. and Mildred M. Harsh, Dan C. Holliman, Ruth R. Horsley, Billie Sue Hulsey, Donald J. Hulsey, Gina Marie, Joseph A. and Stephen M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof (compiler), Greg D. Jackson, Helen H. Kittinger, Christine Leake, Donaldson Lee, John R. Lester, W. Roger Maner, Ann L. Miller, Francis Owens, James V. Peavy, Jr., Lee N. Peavy, Morton H. Perry, Robert D. Perry, Margarette K. Persons, Polly Powell, Millard F. Prather, Alberta G. Reid, Robert R. Reid, Jr., James W. Shepherd, Anne K. Smith, Idalene F. Snead, Virginia R. Thrasher, Arthur and Becky Tyson, Ted L. Weems, Harriett H. Wright, and Maxene Wright.

Jacksonville (incl Choccolocco Valley, Pink's Lk., Jacksonville State Univ. Campus and city): Jan. 1; 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Partly cloudy; 44° to 51°; wind NNE, 10 mph. 7 observers in 3 parties; 19 party-hours (12 on foot, 7 by car); 144 party-miles (18 on foot, 126 by car). Participants: Richard F. Ambrose (compiler), William J. Calvert, Jr., Jerry A. Clonts, Kenneth E. and Tim Landers, J. W. Selman, and C. William Summerour.

Eufaula Wildlife Refuge (incl Chattahoochee R., sloughs managed for waterfowl, and Cowikee and Wylaunee Creeks--count limited to refuge area): Jan. 7. Overcast with much drizzle; cold; strong easterly wind. 19 observers in 4 parties; 30 party-hours; 96 party-miles (4 on foot, 92 by car). Participants: Charlotte Blackshear, Julian L. Dusi (compiler), Rosemary T. Dusi, Ted Ellis, Charles Erwin, Mike Fuller, Emma Giffen, Bob Grier, Elliott Jones, Gail Keracofe, Florence Lynn, William Matheny, Jackie and Ron McKitrick, Harriett and Tom Meadows, Cindy Parsons, and Joy and Robert Terhune.

Mobile (incl Cochrane Causeway, Mobile Bay, Spring Hill College Campus, city and suburbs): Dec. 16; 6:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Clear; 30° to 42°; wind N-NE, 10-20 mph. 13 observers in 8 parties; 55 party-hours (24 on foot, 31 by car); 306 party-miles (17 on foot, 289 by car). Participants: Lois P. Archer, Fred E. Bowers, Fr. J. Lambert Dorn, Mary A. Gaillard, M. Wilson Gaillard, Richard E. Hayward, Jr. (compiler), Elin H. Kincaid, Tom Logan, Max P. McGill, Louise N. McKinstry, Albert and Mini Nonkes, and Elizabeth R. Toenes.

Dauphin Island-Bellingrath Gardens (incl also Cedar Point, Coden, Bayou la Batre, Miss. Sound, and Gulf): Dec. 30; 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Clear AM, rain PM; 65° to 70°; wind S-SE, 5-15 mph. 12 observers in 6 parties; 38 party-hours (11 on foot, 27 by car); 222 party-miles (14 on foot, 208 by car). Participants: Don Bland, Fr. J. Lambert Dorn, Mary A. Gaillard, M. Wilson Gaillard (compiler), Richard E. Hayward, Jr., Edgar Hughes, Elin H. Kincaid, Max P. McGill, Genevieve and James R. Spafford, Elizabeth R. Toenes, and William Tonsmeire.

Ft. Morgan (terminal 15 mi Ft. Morgan Peninsula, W end of Little Lagoon, Bon Secour and Mobile Bays, and Gulf): Dec. 30; 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Cloudy; 65° to 70°; wind SE, 15-25 mph. 14 observers in 5 parties; 47 party-hours (37 on foot, 8 by car, 2 by boat); 125 party-miles (22 on foot, 99 by car, 4 by boat). Participants: Katharine Beck, P. Fairly Chandler (compiler), Sherlie E. Gade, Wyly V. Gammon, Goldwyn O. Gary, Louise T. and Verda D. Horne, Curtis L. Kingsbery, Mary Lou Mattis, Marjorie McNair, Albert and Mini Nonkes, Peter Quinn, and Joseph D. Wetzell.

Gulf Shores (incl Gulf State Park, Lk. Shelby, E end of Little Lagoon, Perdido Pass, Wolf and Oyster Bays, Bon Secour R. and Bay, Foley, Gulf Shores, and Gulf): Jan. 6; 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Cloudy; 50° to 65°; wind SW-N, 5-15 mph. 33 observers in 10 parties; 90 party-hours. Participants: Evelyn and Thomas Barbir, Katharine Beck, Michael L. Bierly, P. Fairly Chandler (compiler), Robert A. Duncan, Amy W. Furnans, Edward E. Furnans, Sherlie E. Gade, Wyly V. Gammon, Goldwyn O. Gary, Lyman E. Goodnight, M. Fred Griffin, Louise T. Horne, Joseph A. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof, Greg D. Jackson, Curtis L. Kingsbery, W. Roger Maner, Mary Lou Mattis, Marjorie McNair, Albert Nonkes, Mini Nonkes, Steven G. Page, James V. Peavy, Jr., Lee N. Peavy, Peter Quinn, Alberta G. Reid, Robert R. Reid, Jr., Anne K. Smith, Virginia R. Thrasher, Frederick J. Wernicke, and Joseph D. Wetzell.

Pensacola (incl Pensacola Bay, Santa Rosa Sound, Gulf, city and suburbs): Dec. 16; 6:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Clear; 33° to 40°; wind NW, 15-25 mph. 34 observers in 8 parties; 71 party-hours (37 on foot, 34 by car); 352 party-miles (30 on foot, 322 by car). Participants: Richard L. Ballman, Katharine Beck, Brooke and Hal Beecher, Frank Bray, Lucy and Robert A. Duncan, Amy W., Edward E. and Vance A. Furnans, Sherlie E. Gade, Goldwyn O. Gary, Lyman E. Goodnight, Leroy E. Healy, Louise T. Horne, Roy L. Hyatt, Charles J. Kahn, Albert Keyser, Curtis L. Kingsbery (compiler), Doris A. Lewis, Susan F. and Steven E. Liston, Mary Lou Mattis, Marjorie McNair, C. William and Judy Milmore, Karen Oetken, Judith B. and Steven G. Page, J. Pheane Ross, Alan C. Sheppard, David H. Turpin, Frederick J. Wernicke, and A. Fred Wicke.

Marianna (incl Chipola R., Merritt's Millpond, McCormick's Lk., Fla. Caverns St. Park, and city): Dec. 16; 6:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Cloudy; 28° to 36°; wind NE, 18-30 mph; 40° drop in temp. over previous 12 hrs; very dry fall. 11 observers in 4 parties plus 1 at feeder; 34 party-hours (8 on foot, 23 by car, 3 by boat); 144 party-miles (7 on foot, 131 by car, 6 by boat). Participants: Lillian Cook, Marion W. Gray (compiler), Mary Gray, William A. Hearn, Vicki Milam, Nancy and Wilbur Roberts, Celma and James Rosborough, Donald P. and Frances Scott, and Stephen J. Stedman.

Bay County (incl St. Andrew Bay, Grand Lagoon, Deerpoint Dam, Gulf, Panama City and suburbs): Dec. 30; 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Cloudy; 57° to 71°; wind SE, 3-25 mph. 20 observers in 9 parties; 62 party-hours (23 on foot, 31 by car, 8 by boat); 241 party-miles (18 on foot, 190 by car, 33 by boat). Participants: Jane Adams, Lee Benoit, Eric Fontaine, Betty Friedman, William A. Hearn, Fred Jones, Vicki Milam, Mary Ann and Terri Olson, Audrey Parker, Nancy and Wilbur Roberts, Donald P. Scott (compiler), Frances Scott, Stephen J. Stedman, David and Gladys Todd, Anna and Tom Watson, and Larry York.

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MOUNTAIN PLOVER IN ALABAMA

P. Fairly Chandler

On January 6, 1973, with Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) and Water Pipits (*Anthus spinoletta*) in a very large, unplanted field near Magnolia Springs, Alabama, in south Baldwin County, Fairly Chandler and Peter Quinn discovered a Mountain Plover (*Eupoda montana*). The day's weather was cloudy, wind SW-N 5-15 mph with temperature range between 50° F and 65° F. Previously, the winter weather had been very mild with only two light freezes (above 20°). The field was bare of any vegetation, green or otherwise.

The Mountain Plover was observed at leisure for some one-quarter hour as near as approximately one hundred feet with 8.5x and 10x binoculars. All field marks were seen quite well -- somewhat smaller than the accompanying and related Killdeer, buffy appearing back and breast and, in flight, a white wing stripe with dark border, and dark tail band with white border.

The bird habitually did much running in search of food, usually 10 to 30 or more feet, after which it would stop and look about or go right to feeding. On occasion, it would fly as far as a quarter-mile just a few feet above the ground, after which it would look about again or go right to feeding and running about.

The bird was studied again some four hours later with binoculars and telescope by Chandler, Quinn, Curtis L. Kingsbery, Lyman Goodnight, Steve Page, and Fred Wernicke, and again on January 7, 9, 13, and 15 by many other birders. It was photographed in color by Dr. S. E. Liston on January 13 and by Chandler on January 15. On January 15, three tractors were discing the field and the Plover, Killdeer, and Pipits were avoiding the disturbed ground. On January 17, the field was being plowed and no birds were present. The Killdeer and Pipits moved to adjoining fields, but the Mountain Plover has not been seen again to date.

According to R. T. Peterson, A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS, the Mountain Plover is a common breeding bird of the western parts of the Great Plains, wintering in California and Mexico, and accidental in Massachusetts and Florida. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., in FLORIDA BIRD LIFE lists three records for that state: December 1, 1870, at Key West; late July 1901 from James Island; and December 17, 1927, from Daytona Beach.

This is the first known record for Alabama.

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