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THE SEASON, Summer-Fall

June through November, 1973 in Alabama

Thomas A. Imhof, Editor

Early summer was wet and reproduction was late but adequate, as best as can be told. Fall was warm with occasional cool spells. The trees still had half their leaves by Thanksgiving, and the birds appeared sometimes as a confusing array of late lingerers and early arrivals.

Coastal banding again showed the Catbird to be the top woodland migrant, although Margaret Miller's top Sept.-Oct. birds on Dauphin were Yellowthroat, White-e Vireo, Swamp Sp, Catbird and Indigo Bunting. In coastal Baldwin County, mostly Fort Morgan, in late Oct., Imhof and Peavy found the following most common landbird migrants in order of abundance: Catbird, Swamp Sp, Myrtle W, Hermit Thrush, Indigo Bunting, Wood Thrush and White-e Vireo. Total birds banded both sides of Mobile Bay, 556 - Catbirds, 114.

Birmingham's ninth annual Fall Count on Oct. 6 with record coverage, 48 observers, 11 parties, 136 party hours, produced a record 126 species. The following species were recorded higher than any fall count on a per party hour basis: Red-cockaded Woodpecker (18 birds), Brn Thrasher, Robin, Solitary Vireo, Golden-wg W, Orange-cr W, Parula W, Blackburnian W, Chestnut-sd W, Bay-breasted W, Palm W, Rose-br Grosbeak. The following were recorded lowest of 9 years: Turkey Vulture, En Bluebird, L Shrike, Towhee, Field Sp.

The Mobile Bird Club's Fall Count on Dauphin Island Oct. 20 produced 96 species.

Waterfowl at Wheeler Refuge are up this year from last year same time. Atkeson reports present as of Dec. 3, 19,500 Canadas, 1100 Snows (both morphs) and 30,000 ducks. Wood Duck and Gadwall are up, Teal and Pintail down, Goldeneye not seen. The usual number of westerns showed on the coast, White-winged Dove, Wn Kingbird and Scissor-tail.

The following noteworthy species were reported this summer and fall:

Red-thr Loon: Nov. 16, L Oliver, Phenix City (LAW) 5th local rec, 7th inland.  
 Eared Grebe: June 13, sum. plum., Gulf Shores (REH), first in summer Alabama;  
 Nov. 27 Dauphin (REH).  
 Red-nk Grebe: Dec. 7, L Oliver (LAW) 4th Ala. rec, 7th inland.  
 Pied-bl Grebe: July 22, Muscle Shoals (JVP, WRM) 14, indicates successful local breeding.

CORY'S SHEARWATER: Sept. 10, just north of west end of Dauphin (TWa, JVP, WRM, mob) FIRST ALABAMA.

Greater Shearwater: present vic Dauphin July, Aug. & Sept., photo July 25, Sept. 10, max 16 Aug. 14 (TWa, JVP, WRM, FEB mob).

Brown Pelican: abundant near Dauphin May to Aug., max 400. June 17 (LRT) few after Sept.

Cattle Egret: Aug. 11, Weiss L (WJC) earliest fall Mtr; Nov. 25, Wheeler (ENW) latest fall TV.

Reddish Egret: Aug. thru Nov. 25, Dauphin 1 or 2 (LRT); Sept. & Oct. Gulf Shores (mob).

Glossy Ibis: Sept. 3, Ashford, Houston Co., 12 (RJK, HHK, JLS) 1st fall LCP.  
 Glossy Ibis: Sept. 18, Wheeler Refuge, (fide TZA) 1st fall TV.  
 Glossy Ibis: Nov. 17, Fink's L, Calhoun Co. (WJC, B.A.S. mob) 1st fall Mtr.  
 White Ibis: Aug. 26, 2 & Sept. 15, 4, L Purdy (HHK, KRK, HHW, ALM) becoming regular.

Whistling Swan: Nov. 11, Wheeler Ref, 5 (fide TZA); Nov. 13, Fink's L, 1 (WJC) 3rd Mtr.

Black Duck: Sept. 19, Weiss L (WJC) earliest Mtr.  
Green-wg Teal: Sept. 8, L Oliver, 5 (LAW) earliest Pied.  
Blue-wg Teal: Aug. 9, 5 at L Purdy (B.A.S.); Aug. 9, L Oliver (LAW).  
Am. Wigeon: Aug. 17 at Weiss L (WJC) earliest Mtr, possibly summered.  
Redhead: Oct. 29 Fink's L (WJC) ties earliest Mtr.  
Ring-necked Duck: East Lake, Birmingham summered for 10th consecutive year (RRR, mob).  
Greater Scaup: Ft. Morgan, Oct. 23 (JVP, ICY) earliest Ala.  
Lesser Scaup: Muscle Shoals, July 22 (JVP, WRM) 2nd summer TV.  
Common Merganser: Nov. 3, L Oliver (LAW) 9 birds, earliest Pied.

Bald Eagle: Dauphin, Sept. 18 (B&HH); Wheeler, Nov. no dates (TZA).  
Peregrine Falcon: Sept. 19, Ft. Morgan (PFC, MLM, SG); Sept. 24, Marion (JVP, TW); Sept. 21, 26 & Oct. 10, Dauphin (SBH, REH, LRT).  
Merlin: Oct. 10, Jacksonville (WJC); Oct. 17, Fairhope, 3 (JDW).  
Bobwhite: all over Alabama Sept. & Oct. coveys held half-grown birds from late nestings; early clutches flooded out.  
Black Rail: June 18, L Shelby, Gulf Shores, calling late at night, probably bred (JVP).  
Am. Coot: East Lake, B'ham, nested 2nd year in a row, 3 chicks (RRR).  
Am. Golden Plover: Aug. 12, 2, Wheeler Ref. (DCH) 1st Aug. rec. Alabama.  
Black-b Plover: Oct. 20 L Purdy (DJH, BSH); Sept. 29 & Nov. 24 Weiss L (WJC), 3rd, 4th & 5th rec. Mtr.  
Com. Snipe: June 26 to July 21, 1-4 birds, Wheeler (DCH, mob), 1st June & July recs. Alabama.  
Com. Snipe: Aug. 18, Bussey's L, Russell Co. (WM, MF) earliest UCP.  
Knot: Sept. 2 & 3, Marion Hatchery (JRB, photo-JVP, LNP) exc for TV 1st inland rec.  
Pectoral Sandp: July 10, 5, Wheeler Ref (DCH) earliest TV; Nov. 10, Wheeler (MLB).  
White-rumped Sandp: July 18, 3 & Aug 12, 7, Wheeler Ref (DCH, JRW) earliest Ala.  
Baird's Sandp: May 13, 2, Dauphin (R&LD); July 25 to Sept. 6, 2-5 birds, Wheeler Ref, (DCH) 1st summer & fall recs. TV.  
Least Sandp: June 17 & 18, Alabama Point (MLM) 2nd summer rec. GCoast.  
Dunlin: Nov. 10, 106 in Limestone Bay, Wheeler Ref. (MLB) max inland; Nov. 24 Weiss L (WJC).  
Short-b Dowitcher: July 10, 4, Wheeler Ref (DCH) earliest TV; Nov. 10 there (MLB) late.  
Stilt Sandp: July 14, Wheeler Ref. (DCH) earliest Ala.  
Buff-br Sandp: Aug. 23, B'ham Airport (TAI) earliest Mtr; Aug. 28 & 29, Marion (JVP) earliest UCP.  
Sanderling: July 14, 18, 21, Wheeler, 4 birds (DCH) 1st inland July recs.  
Black-nk Stilt: Oct. 15, Cochrane Causeway (JLD) late.  
Wilson's Phalarope: June 17 & 24, Mary Lou Slough, Ala. Point (K&MB) 1st sum rec.  
Northern Phalarope: Sept. 10, 6 in flock 10 mi S of Dauphin (TAI, mob), earliest Ala., 2nd coast.  
Northern Phalarope: Oct. 13 & 14, Blakely I, Mobile (A&MN, VDH) 7th Ala., 3rd coast.  
Northern Phalarope: Nov. 13, Fink's L, Galhoun Co (WJC) 8th Ala., 3rd Mtr.

Pomarine Jaeger: Sept 10, 5 (2 ad) plus 2 jaeger sp., 10 mi S of Dauphin (TWa, mob) 3rd Ala. rec.  
Glaucous Gull: Oct. 22 & Nov. 27, Cochrane Causeway (REH, SBH) 5th & 6th recs. Ala.  
Laughing Gull: Nov. 19-21, Wheeler Ref. (DCH) 7th TV rec.  
Yellow-b Cuckoo: Nov. 5, Ensley, B'ham (TAI) 7th Nov. rec. Ala.  
Short-eared Owl: Nov. 20, Dauphin (REH, SBH) latest of 4 recs. on coast all fall.  
Chuck-w-widow: Oct. 24, Ft. Morgan (JVP, TW) ties latest Ala. (banded)

Gray Kingbird: scarce this year, late but not latest, Oct. 18, Fairhope (JDW).  
Great Crested Flyc: Oct. 26, seen & heard, Ft. Morgan (PFC, TAI) latest Ala.  
Acadian Flyc: Oct. 13, lower Russell Co. (H & TM) latest inland Ala.  
The Willow Flycatcher (FITZ-BEW) differs from the Alder Flycatcher (FEE-BEE-O) in

having a longer bill and more rounded wing, measurable in the hand such as in museum specimens and during banding. Thus far for Alabama, we have the following records of heard & measured.  
Alder Flyc: 6 recs., May 7-22 (TV, MTR, GC), 2 banded Sept. 6, 1966 (B'ham); heard DI Oct. 4  
Willow Flyc: June 5, 1965 (heard, B'ham); apparently regular in fall (B'ham and coast) Aug. 15 to Oct. 4, specimen Aug. 29 from Ft. Morgan.  
Tree Swallow: July 22, Muscle Shoals (JVP, WRM) exc for Mtr earliest Ala.  
Bank Swallow: Oct. 24, Mary Lou Slough, Ala. Point (TAI) latest Ala.  
Barn Swallow: coastal breeding population at Cochrane Causeway is now only 75 miles from the nearest inland breeding station at Millry.

Red-br Nuthatch: Sept. 12 & 19, Ft. Morgan & Gulf Shores (PFC, MLM, SG) earliest Ala.  
House Wren: June & July in Mtn. Brook, B'ham, a female built a nest (ELG, photo-KWG) 2nd breeding attempt, 3rd summer rec. for Ala.  
Catbird: A bird banded by TAI, Ft. Morgan, Oct. 1972 recovered in Pembroke, Ont. Sept. 1973.  
Robin: July 16 on Dauphin (G&JS)  
Swainson's Thrush: Oct. 27, Jacksonville (WJC) latest Mtr.  
Veery: Oct. 26, Ft. Morgan, banded (TAI) latest Ala.  
Golden-cr Kinglet: Oct. 17, Vestavia, B'ham (HBT) & Oct. 19, Dauphin (REH) early.  
Ruby-cr Kinglet: Sept. 24, B'ham (HHW) earliest Mtr; Sept. 15, Tuscaloosa (JCT) earliest UCP.  
Yellow-thr Vireo: Oct. 13, Tuscaloosa (JCT) latest UCP.  
Solitary Vireo: Nov. 22, Fink's L (WJC).

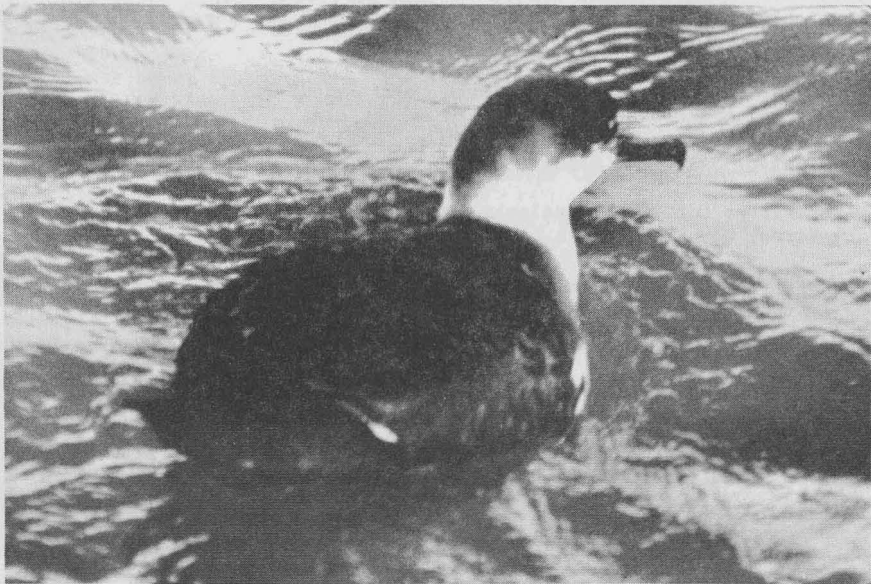
Prothonotary W: Sept. 8, Tuscaloosa (JCT) latest UCP; Oct. 6, B'ham Zoo (JVP, WRM) latest Mtr.  
Swainson's W: Oct. 6, Hoover, B'ham (RJK, JLS) latest Mtr.  
Swainson's W: Oct. 2, 8, 15, 18 Dauphin Island, banded (MEM).  
Swainson's W: Oct. 27, St. Andrew's Bay near Ft. Morgan, banded (JVP, TW) latest Ala.  
Blue-wg W: Sept. 29, Tuscaloosa (JCT) latest UCP.  
Brewster's W: July 11, Tensaw R near Mobile (REH) earliest fall Ala., 7th Coast.  
Tennessee W: Sept. 15, Tuscaloosa (JCT) earliest fall UCP.  
Myrtle W: Huntsville, June 9 & 17 (BGM, PS, MLB) 2nd sum. rec. Ala. Tuscaloosa, Oct. 7 (JCT) ties earliest UCP.  
Chestnut-sided W: June 10, Bankhead Forest, Bunyan Hill Rd (MLB, BGM) 3rd sum. rec. Ala.  
Prairie W: Oct. 8, Tuscaloosa (JCT) latest UCP; Oct. 27, Ft. Morgan (JVP, TW) latest Ala.  
Connecticut W: Sept. 11, Spring Hill, Mobile (MAG) earliest Ala.  
Mourning W: Dauphin, 4 banded Sept. 12, 14, 16 (MEM, REH); seen Oct. 19 (LPA, LRT) late.  
Yellowthroat: Nov. 10, Wheeler Ref. (MLB) late.  
Bobolink: Sept. 8, Tuscaloosa, 50-75 birds in 3 flocks (JCT) earliest fall UCP.  
Summer Tanager: Oct. 13, Tuscaloosa (JCT) latest UCP.

Blue Grosbeak: Oct. 18, Roberts Field, B'ham 2 (TAI) latest Mtr.  
Indigo Bunting: Oct. 27, Tuscaloosa, (JCT) latest UCP.  
Painted Bunting: Sept. 29 & Oct. 17, banded on Dauphin (REH) rare in fall.  
Vesper Sp: Oct. 13, Fairhope (A&MN, WG, JDW) earliest coast.  
Clay-colored Sp: Oct. 18, 2, Dauphin (REH), 12th rec. coast, 14th Ala.  
Dark-e Junco: Oct. 20, Tuscaloosa (JCT) earliest UCP; Oct. 23, Ft. Morgan, banded (JVP, TW).  
Fox Sp: Oct. 21, Roberts Fd, B'ham, netted bird banded Nov. 1, 1969 (TAI, JMI)  
Song Sp: summer thru Aug. 17, Weiss L (WJC); we now have summer recs. for 4 counties, DeKalb (breeds), Morgan, Jefferson, Cherokee; it probably breeds in all 4.

Observers: Thomas Z. Atkeson, Lois P. Archer, Birmingham Audubon Society, J. R. Bailey, Katherine & Millicent Beck, Michael L. Bierly, William J. Galvert, P. Fairly Chandler, Joseph Lambert Dorn, Mike Fuller, Mary A. Gaillard, Wylie Gammon, Sherlie Gade, EmmyLou Grimley, K. W. Grimley, R. E. & Sharon B. Hayward, Bob & Heather Huntley, Verda D. Horne, David C. Hulse, Donald J. & Billie Sue Hulsey, Thomas A. Imhof, John M. Imhof, Helen H. Kittinger, K. R. Kittinger, Richard J. Kittinger, William Matheny, Mary Lou Mattis, Margaret E. Miller, Ann L. Miller, Bob G. Meadows, Harriett & Tom Meadows, Albert & Mini Nonkes, James V. Peavy, Lee N. Peavy, Robert R. Reid, Jo L. Susenbach, Genevieve & Jim Spafford, Pat Stallings, Lib R. Toenes, Helen B. Thigpen, James C. Thompson, L. A. Wells, W. Roger Maner, Tom Walker (TWa), Ted Weems, Emmett N. Waldrep, Harriett H. Wright, Joseph D. Wetzel, Joe E. Wright, J. Ross Williams, Iva C. Young.

Abbreviations: TV-Tennessee Valley, MtR-Mountain Region, Pied-Piedmont, UCP-Upper Coastal Plain, LCP-Lower Coastal Plain, GC-Gulf Coast, mob-many other birders, rec-record, L-Lake.

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Photograph by Helen H. Kittinger;  
courtesy of AOS slide collection committee

#### OFFSHORE TRIP INTO GULF OF MEXICO

September 10, 1973

Thomas A. Imhof

Through the courtesy of the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium on Dauphin Island and specifically Drs. William W. Schroeder and Dan C. Holliman and Boat Capt. Thomas Walker, six of us - Helen H. and Ricky Kittinger, Ann L. Miller, W. Roger Maner, James V. Peavy and Thomas A. Imhof - birded from the RV Pisces to at least 10 miles south of Dauphin Island on September 10, 1973.

We left Bayou La Batre about dawn, 6:00 a.m., passed just west of Dauphin, went at least ten miles south, turned east to the Ship Channel, followed it north into Mobile Bay, then into Mississippi Sound, and reached Bayou La Batre about 5:00 p.m. The sky was partly cloudy with occasional rain squalls and the

5-10 knot SW wind produced 4-foot swells. Use of binoculars and cameras was often difficult due to the choppiness, but this same wind brought some sea birds closer to shore, even into Mississippi Sound.

The best bird seen was GORY'S SHEARWATER, *Puffinus diomedea*, first record for Alabama and probably the entire Gulf of Mexico. This bird, in Mississippi Sound about 7:00 a.m., flew toward the boat and passed less than 10 yards to starboard (right). Field marks noted were its large size (larger than Greater Shearwater or Laughing Gull), uniformly dark brown upperparts including head, gradual shading on sides of head to white throat and white below, and large pale yellow bill. Walker discovered the bird, Maner and Peavy in the bow saw it well, the rest of us saw mostly the upperparts.

This species breeds in the Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic (Canaries, Azores), migrates west in fall to become common offshore from Newfoundland to the Carolinas August to November, and winters south to Brazil. To our knowledge it had not been recorded in the Gulf of Mexico, but it is certainly to be expected there.

Other marine species seen were: Greater Shearwater, 5 (photo, seen at least 4 times this August and September); unidentified shearwater, 1; Magnificent Frigatebird, 23 (photo); Northern Phalarope, 6 (earliest for state); unidentified phalarope, 2; Pomarine Jaeger, 5 (flock with 2 adults attacked Sandwich Terns - 3rd record for state); unidentified immature jaegers, 3; Herring Gull, 4; Ring-billed Gull, 20; Laughing Gull, 500; Royal Tern, 150; Sandwich Tern, 20; Least Tern, 2; Black Tern, 1000; hummingbird, 1 (halfway between Fort Morgan and Dauphin Island going west).

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#### FIELD NOTE: CLIFF SWALLOW NESTING IN COLBERT COUNTY, ALABAMA 1972-1973

James V. Peavy, Jr.

In July of 1972, Bob and Elberta Reid checked Cliff Swallows nesting in Colbert County. The results of their search indicated at least three different localities with active nests and one additional site with a probable nest. Localities and counts are as follows:

1. Natchez Trace Parkway bridge over the Tennessee River - 200+ nests, 110 birds counted.
2. Colbert Steam Plant bridge over Cane Creek - 28 nests with 22 birds.
3. Little Bear Creek at U.S. 72 - 3 nests with 26 birds.
4. Town Creek at Ala. 184 - 2 birds, nest not seen.

In July of 1973, Roger Maner and I surveyed this same general area; we found Cliff Swallow nests at six sites and birds at one additional site. Localities and counts are as follows:

1. Natchez Trace Parkway bridge - no significant change from 1972.
2. Colbert Steam Plant bridge at Cane Creek - 57 nests with 40 birds.
3. Spring Creek at U.S. 72 - 2 nests with 4 birds.
4. Town Creek at Ala. 184 - 1 nest, no birds.
5. Big Bear Creek at U.S. 72 - 5 nests with 10 birds.
6. Unnamed Creek on Colbert Co. Rt. 40 - 5 nests with 30 birds.
7. Colbert Co. Rt. 40 at Town Creek - 4 birds, no nests.

These surveys indicate at least five well-established Cliff Swallow colonies in Colbert County. The extreme difficulty in getting under many of the bridges results in many nests not being counted. It is interesting to note that Barn and Cliff Swallows are able to utilize the same habitat without obvious conflict. At the site no. 6 of '73, I banded 9 Cliff and 6 Barn Swallows on 7-29-73. Both species use this small bridge as a nest site. Also, Bob Reid pointed out that Cliff and Barn Swallows both use the Natchez Trace bridge (Cliff Swallows nest outside the main bridge supports; Barn Swallows nest inside these supports.).

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BREEDING BIRD SURVEY, ALABAMA 1966-1972

Thomas A. Imhof

During the seven years, 1966-1972, of 42 established routes, an average of 36 Breeding Bird Surveys have been accepted from Alabama (high - 40 in 1966, low - 31 in 1968). Usually, failure to run a route has been due to shortage of qualified observers in remote parts of the state, but most aggravating are those people who fail to run a route and fail to say anything about it. A few routes have been run and rejected due to late or early start, late finish or a late date.

Below is a listing in order of abundance of the breeding birds of Alabama as determined by seven years of Breeding Bird Surveys. The numbers are average birds per 24.5-mile route. The highest of each family is underscored. \* denotes those species not known to breed in Alabama.

A. 1 or more birds per route - 61 species:

1. <u>House Sparrow</u>	55.7	Blue Grosbeak	6.34
<u>Common Grackle</u>	52.6	Great Crested Flycatcher	5.63
<u>Cardinal</u>	52.1	<u>Summer Tanager</u>	5.61
<u>Bobwhite</u>	49.5	35. Barn Swallow	5.51
5. <u>Mockingbird</u>	49.2	<u>Cattle Egret</u>	5.21
Red-winged Blackbird	45.1	Eastern Wood Pewee	5.14
<u>Blue Jay</u>	38.5	Red-eyed Vireo	5.13
<u>Starling</u>	32.9	Eastern Bluebird	4.26
<u>Mourning Dove</u>	32.2	40. Chipping Sparrow	4.16
10. Eastern Meadowlark	29.5	Rock Dove	3.56
Common Crow	28.5	<u>Loggerhead Shrike</u>	3.14
Rufous-sided Towhee	27.6	<u>Chuck-will's-widow</u>	3.10
Indigo Bunting	27.0	Common Flicker (sub-sp. Y.Sh.)	3.09
<u>Purple Martin</u>	22.0	45. Downy Woodpecker	2.81
15. <u>Chimney Swift</u>	18.7	Rough-winged Swallow	2.53
<u>Yellow-breasted Chat</u>	18.6	<u>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</u>	2.27
<u>Carolina Wren</u>	14.8	<u>Brown-headed Nuthatch</u>	2.26
<u>Wood Thrush</u>	13.0	Gray Catbird	2.04
Orchard Oriole	11.0	50. <u>Killdeer</u>	1.91
20. Field Sparrow	10.9	Red-headed Woodpecker	1.77
<u>Tufted Titmouse</u>	9.37	Kentucky Warbler	1.61
<u>Red-bellied Woodpecker</u>	9.16	Prothonotary Warbler	1.44
<u>Eastern Kingbird</u>	8.66	Black Vulture	1.36
Common Yellowthroat	8.27	55. Little Blue Heron	1.23
25. Carolina Chickadee	8.24	Eastern Phoebe	1.21
<u>White-eyed Vireo</u>	8.00	Hooded Warbler	1.21
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	7.69	Pileated Woodpecker	1.14
Brown-headed Cowbird	7.64	Common Nighthawk	1.11
American Robin	7.59	60. Yellow-throated Vireo	1.09
30. Brown Thrasher	7.06	Acadian Flycatcher	1.06
Fish Crow	6.57		

B. Between .1 and .9 bird per route - 43 species:

American Goldfinch	.89	Yellow Warbler	.23
Green Heron	.81	85. Red-shouldered Hawk	.21
<u>Turkey Vulture</u>	.79	Bachman's Sparrow	.21
65. <u>Least Tern</u>	.79	Snowy Egret	.20
American Redstart	.74	<u>White Ibis</u>	.20
Northern Parula Warbler	.69	<u>Wood Duck</u>	.20
Yellow-throated Warbler	.66	90. <u>Clapper Rail</u>	.20
<u>Belted Kingfisher</u>	.60	Louisiana Waterthrush	.20
70. Ovenbird	.56	Blue-winged Warbler	.19
Black-and-White Warbler	.51	*Laughing Gull	.18
Great Blue Heron	.46	<u>Barred Owl</u>	.17
Boat-tailed Grackle	.39	95. White-breasted Nuthatch	.16
Seaside Sparrow	.37	Louisiana Heron	.15
75. Black-throated Green Warbler	.36	Mallard	.15
Grasshopper Sparrow	.36	*Brown Pelican	.14
Hairy Woodpecker	.31	American Kestrel	.13
Great Egret	.29	100. Willet	.13
Ground Dove	.29	Black Skimmer	.13
80. <u>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</u>	.27	Whip-poor-will	.13
Dickcissel	.26	Red-tailed Hawk	.12
Scarlet Tanager	.24	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	.10
<u>Broad-winged Hawk</u>	.23		

C. Less than .1 bird per route - 53 species in AOU order:

105. Pied-billed Grebe, Anhinga, Black-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern, Canada Goose; 110. \*Blue Goose, Blue-winged Teal, \*Ring-necked Duck, \*American Wigeon, \*Red-breasted Merganser; 115. Swallow-tailed Kite, Mississippi Kite, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Osprey; 120. Turkey, King Rail, Sora, Purple Gallinule, Common Gallinule; 125. American Coot, Wilson's Plover, \*Black-bellied Plover, \*Ruddy Turnstone, American Woodcock; 130. \*Upland Sandpiper, \*Spotted Sandpiper, \*Semipalmated Sandpiper, \*Herring Gull, \*Ring-billed Gull; 135. Forster's Tern, Royal Tern, \*Caspian Tern, \*Black Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo; 140. Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Gray Kingbird, Horned Lark; 145. \*Tree Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Bewick's Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Cedar Waxwing; 150. \*Solitary Vireo, Swainson's Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, \*Blackburnian Warbler; 155. \*Bobolink, Northern Oriole (sub-sp. Baltimore), Painted Bunting, Song Sparrow.

D. Breeders and probable breeders not recorded on the Breeding Bird Survey:

Double-crested Cormorant, Reddish Egret, Wood Stork, Glossy Ibis, Mute Swan, Fulvous Tree Duck, Mottled Duck, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, Sandhill Crane, Virginia Rail, Black Rail, Snowy Plover, Gull-billed Tern, Common Tern, Sandwich Tern, Bank Swallow, House Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Veery, Warbling Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Lark Sparrow.

E. Breeding Bird Totals Increase In Alabama.

The results, as shown below from a statistically acceptable sample, indicate that as a whole, our breeding bird populations are in good shape. Indications are that the gain shown is in our common and abundant birds.

## SUMMER BIRD COUNT

JACKSON COUNTY, FLORIDA  
(Marianna, Florida)

Year	Number of Acceptable Routes	Total Birds	Birds per Route
1966	40	32,281	807
1967	37	30,966	837
1968	31	24,092	777
1969	35	28,738	821
1970	38	30,797	810
1971	36	30,582	850
1972	37	33,331	901

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Ed. Note: Just after the deadline for this publication, I was informed by Tom Imhof that all of the 42 established routes in Alabama had been run in 1973, and that all but 4 had been reported by March 1. I would like to congratulate all of you who ran routes in '73 and encourage you to do as well in 1974. (WRM)

## BANDERS' CORNER

James V. Peavy, Jr.

As for all birders, the summer season is a fairly slow season for bird-banders. For most of us, the month of June is taken up with the Breeding Bird Surveys, and July-August is the hottest time of the year. I remember well one day in August when I set up my mist nets in a proven area - the total catch for 8½ hours of effort was 0 birds.

Summer is not a totally non-productive time, however, because this is the season when Bob Reid sends out the call for the Cedar Valley Farms Expeditionary Force. For those of you who are not familiar with this group, I shall give a brief explanation. Each year for the last 5 years, Mr. Robert R. Reid, Jr. of Birmingham has undertaken a study of the Barn Swallows nesting in the barn owned by Tom and Mary McClellan of Leeds, Alabama. In conjunction with his study, Mr. Reid has always had a bander join him to aid in catching the adult birds and to band new birds encountered. Banders who have joined in this project include Mike Bierly, Harriett Wright, the K. R. Kittingers and myself. Much interesting information has been gained from this study, and this year the first recovery of a nestling banded in the barn was made when I caught an adult in Franklin County on May 21, 1973, which was banded by Harriett Wright on June 22, 1970. This indicates that birds born in the barn seek out new nesting areas, while recoveries of adults show they return to the same barn year after year to nest.

In contrast with the summer, the fall season is a very busy and exciting time for bird-banders. This year four Alabama bird-banders made an attempt to band fall migrants on the Gulf Coast, where they congregate before heading further south. Our plan called for two banders to work on Dauphin Island and two to work on the Fort Morgan Peninsula. Margaret Miller and Tuck Hayward were on Dauphin, while Tom Imhof and I were at Fort Morgan. As you might expect, such concentrated effort provided several interesting records. Margaret Miller banded 114 birds of 40 species including a Mourning Warbler, 4 Swainson's Warblers and a Dickcissel. Tom Imhof banded 170 birds of 35 species, including over 30 thrushes of various species and a late Prairie Warbler. I banded 272 birds of 45 species including a late record for Swainson's Warbler.

In addition to these, there was a Catbird recovered in Pembroke, Ontario on September 15, 1973, which was banded by Tom Imhof at Fort Morgan on October 21, 1972. Also, a Fox Sparrow banded by Tom Imhof on November 1, 1969 was recaptured by him on October 21, 1973 at a nearby location in Ensley.

Count area: Circle within Jackson County, Florida, centered in Marianna, not exceeding 40 miles in diameter; June 9, 1973; 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Clear; Temperature 64° to 88°; Wind SW 0-10 mph; 8 observers in 4 parties; Total party-hours 28.5, of which 1.5 at night (6 on foot, 19 by car, 3.5 by canoe); Total party-miles 199.5 (4.5 on foot, 186 by car, 9 by canoe).

Anhinga 7, Great Blue Heron 4, Great Egret 12, Snowy Egret 5, Cattle Egret 524, Little Blue Heron 86, Green Heron 18, Yellow-crowned Night Heron 36, White Ibis 35, Wood Duck 8, Turkey Vulture 23, Black Vulture 27, Mississippi Kite 10, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 2, Red-shouldered Hawk 4, Broad-winged Hawk 2, Bobwhite 91, Purple Gallinule 4, Common Gallinule 20, American Coot 11, Rock Dove 20, Mourning Dove 61, Ground Dove 28, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 20, Screech Owl 1, Barred Owl 6, Chuck-will's-widow 10, Common Nighthawk 9, Chimney Swift 14, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 2, Belted Kingfisher 7, Common Flicker (sub-species yellow-shafted) 2, Pileated Woodpecker 7, Red-bellied Woodpecker 25, Red-headed Woodpecker 6, Downy Woodpecker 5, Eastern Kingbird 32, Great Crested Flycatcher 40, Acadian Flycatcher 8, Eastern Wood Pewee 1.

Rough-winged Swallow 6, Purple Martin 162, Blue Jay 83, Common Crow 37, Fish Crow 15, crow sp. 30, Carolina Chickadee 6, Tufted Titmouse 31, Carolina Wren 29, Mockingbird 145, Brown Thrasher 27, Wood Thrush 3, Eastern Bluebird 1, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 3, Loggerhead Shrike 40, Starling 10, White-eyed Vireo, 38, Yellow-throated Vireo 5, Red-eyed Vireo 8, Prothonotary Warbler 10, Northern Parula Warbler 51, Yellow-throated Warbler 5, Pine Warbler 3, Kentucky Warbler 8, Common Yellowthroat 20, Yellow-breasted Chat 15, Hooded Warbler 8, House Sparrow 48, Eastern Meadowlark 18, Red-winged Blackbird 79, Orchard Oriole 20, Common Grackle 75, Brown-headed Cowbird 29, Summer Tanager 8, Cardinal 106, Blue Grosbeak 17, Indigo Bunting 38, Rufous-sided Towhee 45, Bachman's Sparrow 7, Field Sparrow 6.

Total 79 species, about 2509 individuals. -Bob Duncan, Marion and Mary Gray (co-compilers - P.O. Box 50, Marianna, Florida 32446), Nancy and Wilbur Roberts, Donald and Frances Scott, Stephen Stedman.

## FIELD NOTE: PROTHONOTARY WARBLER EATEN BY FISH

Bob G. Meadows

On Saturday, June 2, 1973, at approximately 7:30 a.m., I witnessed the death of a male Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). The bird was eaten by a largemouth bass. At the time of the incident, I was fishing in a small boat on Lady Ann Lake in Madison, Alabama, ten miles west of Huntsville on Alabama 20.

I first noticed the bird flitting around quite near me in the brushy treetops that jut out all over the man-made lake. The birds nest in holes in these dead trees and spend a good deal of time quite near the surface of the water. The little fellow was hopping on some small twigs no more than a foot above the lake when his bright, golden color apparently attracted the attention of a largemouth bass lurking beneath the surface. The calm lake exploded furiously as the huge fish lunged into the air. The little bird vanished within the cavernous, gaping jaws and was gone. The ripples on the surface subsided and the lake was still once more.

2716 Holiday Drive, S.W., Huntsville 35805

IN MEMORIAM

CLUSTIE McTYEIRE

December 17, 1973

AOS lost one of its most knowledgeable and loyal members with the passing last December of Clustie McTyeire. A past officer of AOS and the Birmingham Audubon Society and having served on numerous committees of both societies, she was also active in assisting with field trips, always gave generously of her time and efforts in support of natural history and conservation programs, and was recognized for her many noteworthy observations of both plants and animals. She was an acknowledged expert on mosses and lichens as well as being very knowledgeable of birds, ferns, trees, wildflowers and other branches of natural history.

A teacher of biology for many years at Hueytown High School in Jefferson County, she instilled in her students an active and lasting interest in natural history and conservation. She participated vigorously in such scientific and educational projects as the State and National Science Fairs and the National Audubon Summer Camp Program and worked tirelessly with her students in those and other projects. Her enthusiasm always enlivened and made more interesting the field trips and meetings she attended and brought graphically to the attention of her students and others the need for preservation of all natural resources.

In addition, Clustie was very active in The First Methodist Church of Bessemer (on whose board she served for over 30 years), the Red Cross (from which she received several awards of recognition), the Bessemer Rescue Mission (which she was instrumental in founding), the Alabama Academy of Sciences and other conservation and charitable organizations. She was a valued friend and teacher of all who had the privilege of knowing her. Through her knowledge and interest, she contributed extensively to our appreciation of the world around us and will be greatly missed by all of us. AOS expresses its deepest sympathy to her sister, Mrs. L. L. Aldridge, the other members of her family and her many friends.

AOS also wishes to express its deepest sympathy on the passing in 1973 of three other loyal members of the Society: Dr. Donald A. McDonald of Birmingham, Alabama, and two of our long-time members from Tennessee (who had done so much for conservation and the study of natural history in that state), Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey and Mr. Albert F. Ganier.