

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE



ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Journal of the Alabama Ornithological Society

Vol. 27

1979

Nos. 1,2

CONTENTS

Breeding Status of the Song Sparrow in Alabama C. W. Summerour.	3
New Colony of Cliff Swallows at Cedar Bluff C. W. Summerour.	5
Nesting of the Swainson's Warbler in Alabama C. W. Summerour.	6
Pelagic Birds and Weather Along the Alabama Coast — A Correlation? R. A. Duncan	11
Membership List	12
Summary of Spring Board Meeting	17
In Memoriam	19
From the Editor	20

OFFICERS (1979)

President: C. Dwight Cooley, Apt. 31 S. University Village, Starkville, MS 39759

Treasurer: Martha S. Rogers, 2708 43rd Avenue E., Tuscaloosa, AL 35404

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: Dr. D. Tom Rogers, 2708 43rd Avenue, E., Tuscaloosa, AL 35404

Seasons Editor: Thomas A. Imhof, 1036 Pike Road, Birmingham, AL 35218

Counts Editor: Robert R. Reid, Jr., 2616 Mountain Brook Parkway, Birmingham, AL 35223

BREEDING STATUS OF THE SONG SPARROW, MELOSPIZA MELODIA, IN ALABAMA

C. W. Summerour

The Song Sparrow, Melospiza melodia, is a common winter resident throughout Alabama and a locally common summer resident in the northeastern corner of the State. In recent years the species appears to have been extending its range slowly into the mountain region and has become a common summer resident in certain localities.

The first record of a Song Sparrow in Alabama during the breeding season was an account given by T. Z. Atkeson of a bird at Wheeler Refuge on June 5, sometime between 1936 and 1946. About ten years later positive breeding evidence was confirmed by T. A. Imhof (1962) and H. M. Stevenson who observed a parent bird feeding a dependent fledgling at Valley Head in DeKalb County on June 4, 1954.

Since Imhof's and Stevenson's record, numerous singing males have been reported from the mountain region, notably from Jackson, Marshall, DeKalb, Cherokee, Morgan and Etowah counties, but no nesting observations were recorded to confirm positive breeding evidence.

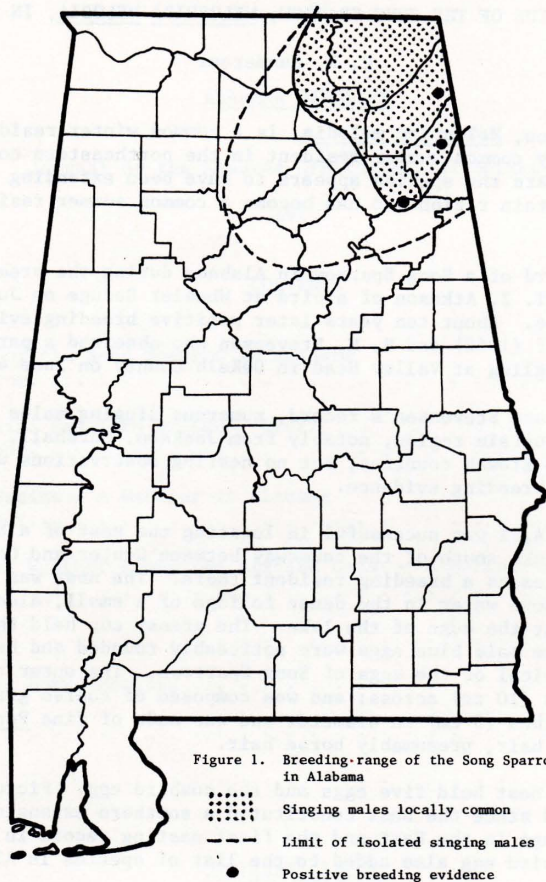
On May 21, 1974, I was successful in locating the nest of a Song Sparrow on an island in Weiss Lake south of the causeway between Center and Cedar Bluff, confirming the species as a breeding resident there. The nest was well concealed 30 inches (76 cm) above water in the dense foliage of a small, alder, Alnus serrulata, growing at the edge of the lake. The grassy cup held three eggs and one cowbird egg. The pale blue eggs were noticeably rounded and heavily marked with brown dots, typical of the eggs of Song Sparrows. The outer cup of the nest measured four inches (10 cm) across; and was composed of coarse grasses; the inner cup measured two inches (5 cm) in diameter and was made of fine Panicum tops and sparsely lined with hair, presumably horse hair.

On May 25 the nest held five eggs and the cowbird egg. Pictures were taken to verify the record since the nest constituted a southern extension of the Song Sparrow's summer range in the East and the first nesting record in Alabama. The presence of the cowbird egg also added to the list of species in Alabama parasitized by cowbirds.

Song Sparrows have been common in Piedmont in northern Calhoun County for at least the past three years, and in May, 1977, I observed a parent bird feeding a fledgling in a vacant lot there, providing further breeding evidence. The birds are also common in Gadsden and around Guntersville Lake and probably in localized areas within the shaded area shown in Figure 1.

Positive breeding evidence has now been recorded at Weiss Lake, Piedmont and Valley Head, but the birds probably nest wherever they occur during the summer months, with the possible exception of isolated males on the leading edge of the range extension.

Isolated singing males have been recorded at Anniston (C. W. Summerour, August 6, 1976), Birmingham (T. A. Imhof, June 6, 1971) and, as mentioned earlier, at Decatur (T. Z. Atkeson, June 5, between 1936 and 1946).



At present, the leading edge of the Song Sparrow's range extension in Alabama, based on observations of singing males, extends approximately from the Tennessee line in Madison or Limestone counties south to Decatur and Birmingham and east to Anniston and northwestwardly to the Georgia State line (Figure 1).

Song Sparrows prefer disturbed habitats in early seral stages of development. Good places to look and listen for them is around weedy, vacated lots, junk yards, parking lots, railroad rights-of-way, old fields, and along lake edges. There is an abundance of disturbed habitats in Alabama and it seems probable that the Song Sparrow will slowly continue to increase as a breeding resident in the State.

Literature Cited

Imhof, T. A. 1962. Alabama Birds. State of Alabama Department of Conservation, Game and Fish Division. University of Alabama Press, University. 591 p.

Department of Biology
Jacksonville State University
Jacksonville, Alabama

NEW COLONY OF CLIFF SWALLOWS AT CEDAR BLUFF

C. W. Summerour

For at least the past two years Cliff Swallows, Petrochelidon pyrrhonota, have been nesting in association with Barn Swallows under a bridge spanning Weiss Lake on highway 68 just west of Cedar Bluff, in Cherokee County.

Several Cliff Swallows were first observed flying among Barn Swallows near the bridge on the 1977 June Breeding Bird Census. A check under the bridge turned up three active nests. In June 1978 six nests were counted from the same vantage point and more Cliff Swallows were seen among the Barn Swallows. Other nests were probably under a portion of the bridge that could not be seen without a boat.

This new colony represents at least the second occurrence of positive breeding outside the Tennessee Valley since 1975, and the birds have been seen during June and July in Cullman, Walker and Jefferson counties as well (Imhof, 1976). Since Cliff Swallows occupy a niche similar to Barn Swallows and show a similar preference for water and bridges as nesting sites, it seems likely that they may be extending their range southward into the State as Barn Swallows have been doing in recent years. Be on the alert for them darting about among the Barn Swallows near bridges and overpasses.

Literature Cited

Imhof, T. A. 1976. Alabama Birds, 2nd ed. State of Alabama Department of Conservation, University of Alabama Press.

Department of Biology
Jacksonville State University
Jacksonville, Alabama

NESTING OF THE SWAINSON'S WARBLER IN ALABAMA

C. W. Summerour

In spite of a growing number of bird students in the field, easier accessibility to more areas, and availability of numerous publications, field guides and other bird literature, the Swainson's Warbler, Limothlypis swainsonii, remains today one of the least known of American songbirds. This is due mainly to the impenetrable nature of its haunts, and for this reason most observers know the species only as a "voice in the swamp," a clear, sweet, piercing song emitted from the deep shade of some swampy tangle. Anyone wishing to pursue the matter further had best prepare himself for dense tangles, quagmires, hordes of persistent mosquitoes, encounters with unfriendly cottonmouths and an occasional ill-tempered rattlesnake.

Arthur H. Howell (1928), an early field ornithologist and author of the first book on the birds of Alabama, noted that the Swainson's Warbler was "confined to deep swamps and river bottom woods where canebrakes are found . . . and its secretive habits conceal it from all but the most persistent observer." Sprunt and Chamberlain (1949) also concurred that the Swainson's Warbler remains . . . one of the few land birds really difficult to find and study."

It is not surprising then, considering the difficulty in working with the birds, that breeding data are difficult to obtain. In Alabama only three positive nesting accounts have been described, two by Howell (1928) of nests he discovered on an island in the Tennessee River in May, 1912, near Florence, and the recent nesting record presented in this paper by the author, found near Jacksonville, in northeast Alabama, on May 11, 1977.

Another nest, possibly that of a Swainson's Warbler, was found May 14, 1978, by Mark Brown, a student at Auburn University, and Milton Harris, a professor in the Chemistry Department of UAH, and has been cited by Imhof (1978) in American Birds. In listing spring arrival dates for the Southern Region, Imhof states that late arriving Swainson's Warblers were reported from nine places in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Alabama, the earliest April 15 near Vicksburg and "three with a nest in the Sipsey Forest, Lawrence Co., Ala. May 14."

Personnal communication with Brown revealed that a nest had been found in the vicinity where three Swainson's Warblers were observed, two of which were seen near a nest thought to be that of a Swainson's Warbler. No bird was actually seen on the nest, nor were detail observations made on the construction of the nest. Brown felt, but did not look, into the nest and found it empty, so no egg descriptions were available to confirm the identity of the nest. The lining he said, felt coarse "something like rootlets." The nest, as described by Brown, was "about five feet high over dry ground in a 'scupernong vine' and composed of twigs and leaves." Harris recalled that the nest was in sparse cane, but Brown, who examined the nest more closely, said no cane was in the area.

Regarding the early account of Howell, he states that "both nests were in rather open canebrakes in heavy timber, on dry ground but close to the border of a small slough. They were loosely fastened in the upper branches of cane stems, about four feet above the ground. One nest, found May 5, contained 2 eggs; May 8, it held 3 eggs and the female parent was incubating . . . the other nest was found the same day and was empty, though apparently just completed." For 65 years this

rather brief description was the only information available on the breeding habits of the Swainson's Warbler in Alabama.

On May 7, 1977, while exploring a beaver swamp six miles west of Jacksonville, I observed a female Swainson's Warbler carrying nesting material, but a thorough search of the area failed to locate the nest. On a return trip four days later, on May 11, I was successful in finding the partially completed nest about 25 yards (23 meters) from the spot where I had observed the female gathering nesting material.

The nest was about chest high in thick, vine entangled hardwood undergrowth near the edge of a beaver pond. Only the outer cup had taken shape at the time and was composed of mud-soaked leaves, some of which had been placed apart from the main body of the nest, giving the whole the appearance of a loose, ragged mass of leaves lodged in the vegetation. The inner cup had just been started and consisted of only a few grass stems. Judging from the degree of completion, nest construction must have begun on or near May 7, when I first observed the female carrying nesting material.

On May 15 the nest appeared completed but held no eggs. Considering nest construction to have begun on or near May 7, time required for construction was about six to nine days.

On May 19 when I returned to check the nest, the female was incubating and allowed me to approach within three feet before slipping from the nest and disappearing into the swamp, revealing four clear, pinkish-white eggs.

Since the nest was empty at noon on the 15th and the female was incubating four eggs on the morning of the 19th, the laying interval was apparently one egg per day. This agrees with finding by Meanley (1971) and would also be consistent with the laying interval of other warblers.

As incubation advanced, the female became an extremely close sitter and would allow me to approach within 18 inches (46 cm) while I snapped pictures of her on the nest. On May 26, one week into the incubation period, I had to touch her with my finger so that she would move for me to check the contents of the nest. Even then, she only hopped up on the rim of the nest long enough for me to see the contents, now only three eggs.

There is no satisfactory explanation for the missing egg. A snake would have in all probability taken all of the eggs, not just one, and a mammal predator would have damaged the nest while pilfering the contents. I had noticed on the first day of incubation, when the nest held four eggs, that the female appeared to sit abnormally high in the nest, then several days later she seemed to be nestled much lower into the cup. It is conceivable that she removed one egg intentionally in order to fit more comfortably into the nest and better accommodate a smaller clutch of three eggs.

At noon on June 1, the nest was checked by Don Salls, a student at Jacksonville State University, and the female was still incubating three eggs. Around noon the following day, June 2, Salls again checked the nest and found that all three eggs had hatched.

Since incubation began on or near the morning of May 19, and the eggs hatched between noon of June 1 and noon June 2, the incubation period was determined to be 13½ to 14½ days. This agrees with two incubation periods cited by Meanley (1971) of 13 days and 14 or 15 days.

The nest was empty when I checked it five days later, on June 7, presumably the work of a snake since the nest was completely in tact and in no way damaged, as one would expect from a mammalian predator. Several snakes were seen on different occasions in the immediate vicinity of the nest. These included two watersnakes, Natrix sipedon, a black racer, Coluber constrictor, and a cottonmouth, Agkistrodon piscivorus, the latter uncommon in northeast Alabama.

Since the nest was no longer in use, measurements were taken at the nesting site and the nest collected for more detailed study. The nest measured exactly 4.5 feet (1.37 meters) above dry ground and was supported by honeysuckle, Lonicera japonica, and round-leaf smilax, Smilax rotundifolia, that entwined about a small hophornbeam, Ostrya virginiana, and formed an umbrella-like canopy over the nest.

The outer cup measured 4.5 and 7.5 inches (11.43 by 19.05 cm) and was constructed of mud-soaked leaves of oak, maple and yellow poplar (Table 1) many of which were placed with their petioles pointed outward. The leaves had been placed in position while wet, and in spite of their loose, ragged appearance, were molded together securely. All total the outer cup was constructed of 46 separate pieces of plant materials.

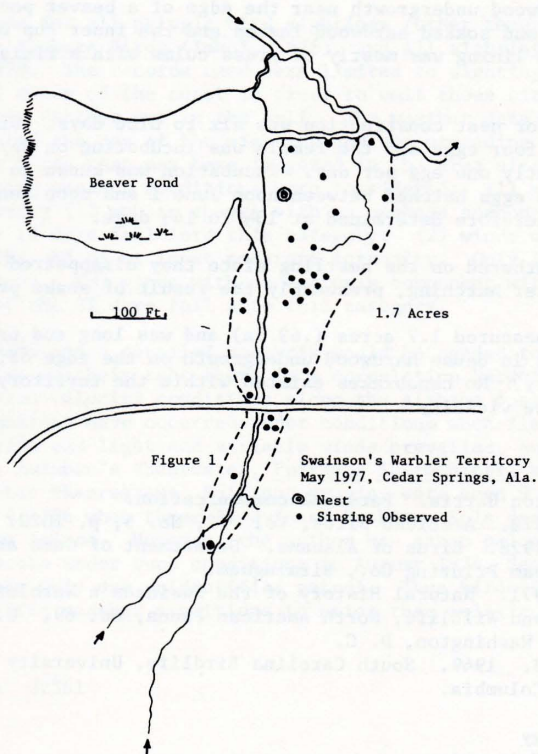
TABLE 1: Composition of Swainson's Warbler nest found near Cedar Springs, Alabama, May 11, 1977.

Outer cup	No. of plant parts
Sugar maple, <u>Acer saccharum</u>	10
Water oak, <u>Quercus niger</u>	6
Red maple, <u>Acer rubrum</u>	4
Yellow poplar, <u>Liriodendron tulipifera</u>	4
Willow oak, <u>Quercus phellos</u>	2
Northern red oak, <u>Quercus rubra</u>	1
Unknown	19
	46
Inner cup (skeletonized)	
Hornbeam or hophornbeam, <u>Ostrya virginiana</u> or <u>Carpinus caroliniana</u> .	12
Blackcherry, <u>Prunus serotina</u>	11
Hackberry, <u>Celtis</u> sp.	12
Dogwood, <u>Cornus</u> sp.	7
Greenbriar, <u>Smilax</u> sp.	1
Unknown	83
	126
Lining	
Grasses	172
Red maple, <u>Acer rubrum</u> , pedicels	83
	255
Miscellaneous	
Red maple, <u>Acer rubrum</u> , seed	1
 Total plant parts in nest	428

The inner cup measured 2.00 x 2.37 inches (5.08 x 6.01 cm) and was composed of highly skeletonized leaves of blackcherry, Prunus serotina, hackberry, Celtis sp., dogwood, Cornus sp., and hophornbeam, Ostrya virginiana, which were molded together to form a neat, round, thick rimmed cup. The lining of the inner cup was composed mostly of grass culms with a sparse final lining of red maple pedicels covering the lower half and bottom of the cup. Grass culms comprised the bulk of the inner lining, totaling 172 pieces, and maple pedicels 83 pieces. The latter are apparently a preferred item since Meanley (1971) also noted that all of eleven nests studied from the Dismal Swamp in Virginia were lined with red maple pedicels.

All total, the entire nest was made of 428 pieces of plant material which is consistent with 418 in a Pendleton Ferry, Arkansas, nest and 323 from a Dismal Swamp nest reported by Meanley (1971).

The territory, based on observation of the singing male over a four week period (May 5 - June 7), measured 1.7 acres (.69 ha) and was long and narrow in shape (Figure 1). By comparison, the size of nine territories cited by Meanley (1971) ranged from 0.3 acres (.12 hectares) to 4.8 acres (1.94 hectares). Another territory mapped by the author in Calhoun County measured 3.9 acres (1.58 hectares).



The nest was in thick hardwood undergrowth composed chiefly of hophornbeam Ostrya virginiana swamp dogwood, Cornus sp., sugar maple, Acer saccharum, and spicebush, Lindera bensoin.

The overstory was composed of widely spaced ash, Fraxinus sp., winged elm, Ulmus alata, yellow poplar, Liriodendron tulipifera, blackgum, Nyssa sylvatica, sycamore, Platynus occidentalis, and mulberry, Morus rubra, averaging 50-60 feet (15-18 meters) high. The dense understory consisted mostly of spicebush, Lindera bensoin, of rather uniform size, hophornbeam, Ostrya virginiana, and swamp dogwood, Cornus sp. that was interlaced with open "sponges" of water overgrown in aquatic vegetation, chiefly lizard's tail, Sarurus, and drained by sluggish meandering streams. The drier sites tended to have spots of relatively open second growth.

Summary

Due mainly to the inhospitable nature of its haunts, the Swainson's Warbler remains today one of the least known of American Songbirds. A new nesting record for the species in Alabama was found by the author on May 11, 1977, six miles west of Jacksonville, near Cedar Springs, in northeast Alabama.

The well concealed nest was four and a half feet (1.37 meters) above dry ground in dense hardwood undergrowth near the edge of a beaver pond. The outer cup was composed of mud soaked hardwood leaves and the inner cup of highly skeletonized leaves. The lining was mostly of grass culms with a finished lining of red maple pedicels.

Time required for nest construction was six to nine days. Since the nest was empty on May 15 and four eggs and the female was incubating on May 19, the laying interval was apparently one egg per day. Incubation was known to have begun on or near May 19, and the eggs hatched between noon June 1 and noon June 2. The incubation period was therefore determined at 13½ to 14½ days.

No data were gathered on the nestling since they disappeared from the nest within five days after hatching, presumably the result of snake predation.

The territory measured 1.7 acres (.69 ha) and was long and narrow in shape. The nest was located in dense hardwood undergrowth on the edge of, and near one end of, the territory. No canebrakes existed within the territory nor were any known to occur in the vicinity.

Literature Cited

- Brown, Mark and Milton Harris. Personal communication.
Imhof, Thomas A. 1978. American Birds, Vol. 32, No. 5, p. 1020.
Howell, Arthur H. 1928. Birds of Alabama. Department of Game and Fisheries of Alabama, Birmingham Printing Co., Birmingham.
Meanley, Brooke. 1971. Natural History of the Swainson's Warbler. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, North American Fauna, No. 69, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.
Sprunt, Alexander, J. 1949. South Carolina Birdlife, University of South Carolina Press, Columbia.

Department of Biology
Jacksonville State University
Jacksonville, Alabama

PELAGIC BIRDS AND WEATHER ALONG THE ALABAMA COAST — A CORRELATION?

Robert A. Duncan

Sightings of pelagic birds along the Alabama coast have increased dramatically in recent years, due primarily to increased forays of birders into the Gulf in search of these wandering seabirds, and to heightened diligence by coastal observers. Some pelagic trips have been outstandingly successful, others quite disappointing. What role, if any, does weather play in bringing pelagic birds to the extreme northern Gulf and adjacent coastal waters? In an effort to answer this question, the author has recorded daily weather conditions at Gulf Breeze, Florida since 1954. Wind direction and velocity are often suspected to be the major weather factors influencing seabird movements in the Gulf. Wind direction and velocity are determined by pressure gradients of high and low pressure cells affecting areas of hundreds or thousands of square miles. Thus, other than localized conditions which exist temporarily and affect relatively small areas in summer, wind direction and velocity at Gulf Breeze should be representative of conditions along the Alabama coast. This has been borne out through weather observations during hawk watches in the fall.

A search was made for all pelagic bird sightings (other than Gannets) after 1961, referred to in Alabama Birds (Imhof, 1976), and all sightings in American Birds 1975 - June 1978. The records used were limited to sightings from coastal waters and within 20 miles of the coast in order to omit those birds that regularly winter or summer farther out in the Gulf. The weather data used included conditions that existed the day of the sighting and the preceding two days, in order to account for birds that may have lingered in the area after certain conditions. The following weather conditions were considered: (1) winds of at least moderate intensity (13 mph or above) with an onshore component (WSW to ESE). Of the 32 days, only 13 days fell into this category. (2) winds with an easterly component (NNE to SSE) and of at least moderate intensity. Only 11 of the 32 days fell into this category. (3) winds with an easterly component without regard to velocity. Only 16 of the 32 days fell into this category.

Although more data and a detailed analysis would be needed to draw a definite conclusion, it appears unlikely that there is a correlation between pelagic sightings and wind direction-velocity conditions along the Alabama coast. Indeed, some significant sightings have occurred under conditions when flat stagnant highs with little circulation and light and variable winds prevailed, such as 6/30/78 when Alabama's first Audubon's Shearwater, Puffinus iherminieri, was found, 8/14/73 when 16 Greater Shearwaters, Puffinus gravis, were seen 9 miles south of Dauphin Island, and 4/6/76 when three Blue-faced Boobies, Sula dactylatra, were observed near Dauphin Island. However, the author has taken pelagic trips 20 miles south of Pensacola under such conditions in August 1974, September 1975 and July 1978 and has seen only one unidentified petrel. Thus birders may not be able to rely on specific weather conditions to bring them pelagic birds.

614 Fairpoint Drive
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32561

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Mr. Carl R. Amason P.O. Box 164 Calion, AK 71724	Mrs. Charles Lee Benton 3505 8th Avenue South Birmingham, AL 35222	Mr. William M. Cagle, Jr. P.O. Box 16765 Mobile, AL 36616
Donald & Rusty Anderson P.O. Box 155 Magnolia Springs, AL 36555	Mr. Michael Lee Bierly 2415 Crestmoor Road Nashville, TN 37215	Dr. W. J. Calvert, Jr. 615 North Pelham Road Jacksonville, AL 36265
Miss Gussie Arnett 1513 9th Avenue So., Apt. 2 Birmingham, AL 35205	Birmingham Audubon Society P.O. Box 314 Birmingham, AL 35201	Mr. Daniel Carbaugh 3020 Oak Circle Columbus, GA 31907
Mr. Erskine Ashbee 1574 Hillandale Drive Mobile, AL 36600	Birmingham Public Library Technology Department 2020 7th Avenue South Birmingham, AL 35203	Mrs. Dale J. Carruthers, Jr. 10 Beechwood Road Birmingham, AL 35213
Mr. Thomas Z. Atkeson, Jr. P.O. Box 1643 Decatur, AL 35601	Mrs. Charlotte Blackshear Route 2 Gallatin, TN 37066	Ms. Sue Chambliss 1902 St. Elmo Drive Columbus, GA 31901
Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr. 205 S.E. 7th Street Gainesville, FL 32601	Mrs. Iness C. Brande Route #4, Box 127 Theodore, AL 36582	Mr. Fairly Chandler Box 142 Magnolia Springs, AL 36555
Mr. J. Russell Bailey, Jr. 18 Peachtree Street Birmingham, AL 35213	Mr. Charles Brasfield 7010 Dickey Springs Rd., SE Bessemer, AL 35020	Ms. Fay Chandler 913 Crestview Lane Adamsville, AL 35005
Mr. Russell Bailey Coffeerville, MS 38922	Ms. Lela Ann Brewer 2421 Chestnut Road Birmingham, AL 35216	Mrs. W. Cruger Chase 913 Shades Crest Road Birmingham, AL 35226
Mrs. Naomi Banks 2116 Brookview Drive Birmingham, AL 35226	Mr. Thomas A. Brindley 901 Tannahill Drive Huntsville, AL 35802	Mr. Roger B. Clapp 827 Walker Road Great Falls, VA 22066
Mr. Raymond D. Bates 757 80th Place South Birmingham, AL 35206	Mrs. G. L. Brown 51 Nack Lane, Springhill Mobile, AL 36608	Mrs. Edith D. Clark 10-C Vestavia East Northport, AL 35476
Mr. & Mrs. Randolph A. Bazet 132 Wilson Avenue Houma, LA 70360	Mr. Mark Brown 2013 Park Street, S.E. Decatur, AL	Mr. Lloyd W. Clayton RFD #4, Box 175-A Lawrenceburg, TN 38464
Ms. Judy Bazinet Route #1, Box 210 Moundville, AL 35474	Mrs. Roy Brownlie 608 North 21st Street Birmingham, AL 35203	Mr. & Mrs. E. G. Cleverdon 1860 Dauphin Street Mobile, AL 36606
Bellingrath Gardens ATTN: Mrs. M. H. Roach Theodore, AL 36582	Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Burks 610 Hellendale Drive Hattiesburg, MS 39401	Mr. W. F. Cobb, Jr. Route #8, Box 91 Jasper, AL 35501
Mr. & Mrs. George T. Bennett General Delivery Dauphin Island, AL 36528		

Mrs. Marie G. Cobbs 3349 Dell Road Birmingham, AL 35223	Dr. M. Temple Douglas Route #1, Box 508 Ruston, LA 71270	Ma. Sherlie Gade Route #1, Box 791 Pensacola, FL 32507
Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr. 672 North Belvedere Memphis, TN 38107	Mr. Alfred T. Driscoll 611 Lakeview Road Fort Walton Beach, FL 36606	Miss Mary A. Gaillard 111 Myrtlewood Lane Springhill Mobile, AL 36608
David and Ruth Cole 13 Hickory Hill Tuscaloosa, AL 35404	Mr. Kenneth H. Dubke Route #1, Box 134-D Ooltewah, TN 37363	Dr. M. W. Gaillard 323-B S. Sage Avenue Mobile, AL 36606
Mr. C. Dwight Cooley Apt. 31 S. University Village Starkville, MS 39759	Bob and Lucy Duncan 614 Fairpoint Gulf Breeze, FL 32561	Dr. Art Garrett, Jr. 3111 Riviere Du Chien Loop West Mobile, AL 36619
Mr. Jerome Couch Rt. 2, Box 38 Camp Hill, AL 36850	Charles Duncan 1130 16th Avenue So. #1 Birmingham, AL 35205	Mrs. Juanita T. Goodson 609 Bonniebrook Drive Birmingham, AL 35226
Mr. Walter F. Coxé P.O. Box 1448 Birmingham, AL 35201	Dr. Julian L. Dusi P.O. Box 742 Auburn, AL 36830	Scott Gravette #21 Country Village Trailer Park, Wire Road Auburn, AL 36830
Mr. Richard K. Crawford 1262-C Randolph Street Grand Forks, AFB, ND 58205	Mrs. Rosemary D. Dusi 560 Sherwood Drive Auburn, AL 36830	Mrs. M. W. Gray Box 50, 705 So. Street Mariana, FL 32446
Dick & Judy Crittenden 1476 Milner Crescent Birmingham, AL 35205	Dr. Howard M. Einspahr 2731 Hanover Circle Birmingham, AL 35205	Mr. James H. Hancock 2919 Surrey Road Birmingham, AL 35223
Mark & Margaret Dauber 3919 Narrowlane Road Montgomery, AL 36111	Harriet H. Wright 2749 Millbrook Road Birmingham, AL 35248	Mrs. T. E. Hanks, Jr. 4152 La Rose Drive Mobile, AL 36609
Mr. James R. Davis Box 352 Jackson, AL 36545	Mr. John Findlay 2129 Greentree Drive Apt. 323 Birmingham, AL 35216	Miss Ethel Harris P.O. Box 37 Moundville, AL 35474
Walter V. & Rebecca W. Davis 104 Bell Street Kosciusko, MS 39090	Forestry Library Tennessee Valley Authority Norris, TN 37828	Dr. J. Milton Harris 1706 Ballard Drive Huntsville, AL 35801
Dr. & Mrs. Temd Deason 14 Hillcrest Tuscaloosa, AL 35401	Mr. & Mrs. George Forster 173 Woodland Forest Section 3 Tuscaloosa, AL 35405	Dr. John F. Harsh 4120 Shiloh Drive Birmingham, AL 35213
Mr. E. A. Donaven Route #3, Box 1015 Foley, AL 36535	Dr. Elizabeth I. French 903 James Street Saraland, AL 36571	Mr. Ralph Havard Box 88 Dauphin Island, AL 36528
J. L. Dorn, J. J. Springhill College 3669 Old Shell Road Mobile, AL 36608		

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hayward, Jr.
P.O. Box 188
Dauphin Island, AL 36528

Dr. Dan C. Holliman
Biology Department
Birmingham-Southern College
Birmingham, AL 35204

Mr. Raiford L. Holmes
P.O. Box 908
Bogalusa, LA 70427

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Horne
708 Fairhope Avenue
Fairhope, AL 36532

Mr. Thomas A. Imhof
1036 Pike Road
Birmingham, AL 35218

Mr. Gregg Jackson
3429 Wisteria Drive
Birmingham, AL 35216

Dr. Jerome A. Jackson
Department of Zoology
Miss. State University
State College, MS 39762

Mr. Daniel R. Jacobson
1507 Hickory Valley Rd.
#J-69
Chattanooga, TN 37421

Mrs. B. H. James
2241 Marion Street
Birmingham, AL 35226

James Jonakin
5021 Cameron Road
Birmingham, AL 35243

Mr. James E. Keeler
3576 N. Georgetown Drive
Montgomery, AL 36109

Mr. Phillip Kilpatrick
P.O. Box 188
Dauphin Island, AL 36528

Mr. Curtis L. Kingsberry
2900 N. Magnolia Avenue
Pensacolla, FL 32503

Mrs. Helen Kittinger
1612 Colesbury Circle
Birmingham, AL 35226

Dr. Paul Kettle
Box 5150
Department of Biology
Univ. of North Ala.
Florence, AL 35630

Ms. Anna E. Kribs
251 Chewacla Drive
Auburn, AL 36830

David & Sylvia Larsen
3410 Montevallo Road
Birmingham, AL 35213

Linda G. Lawson
175 Florence Street
Chestnut Hill, MA 02167

Eric & Sandra Lefstad
213 Buck Drive, N.E.
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548

Ms. Wilma J. Lindberg
2712 Millbrook Road
Birmingham, AL 35243

Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Loftin
2041 Oklahoma Street
Montgomery, AL 36107

Mr. Fred Lohrer
Archbold Biological Station
Route #2, Box 180
Lake Placid, FL 33852

Roy W. Lowe
P.O. Box 837
Decatur, AL 35602

Dr. Marjory D. Lyons
947 Tisdale Circle
Auburn, AL 36830

Mrs. D. A. McDonald
125 Peachtree Road
Birmingham, AL 35213

Mrs. W. J. McDonald, Jr.
630 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35209

McGill University Library
Serials Department
3459 McTavish Street
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Mr. Douglas T. McGinty
3308 Dorchester Drive
Montgomery, AL 36116

Mrs. G. Sheldon McKinstrey
3400 Riviere Du Chien Loop N.
Mobile, AL 36609

Mr. & Mrs. A. B. McLean
3120 Marcia Drive
Mobile, AL 36605

Mr. Samuel M. McMillan
52 Oakland Avenue
Mobile, AL 36608

Mrs. Wm. H. March, Jr.
2529 River Forest Drive
Mobile, AL 36605

Mr. Julius E. Marx
900 Commerce Building
Mobile, AL 36602

Mrs. Sue Schley Mathews
1352 Peacock Avenue
Columbus, GA 31906

Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Mattill, Jr.
Route #2, Box 49
Gordo, AL 35466

Mrs. J. E. Mattis
Route #2, Box 358
Pensacola, FL 32506

Mr. & Mrs. Orrick Metcalfe
"The Parsonage"
Natchez, MS 39120

Mrs. Anne L. Miller
520 Yorkshire Drive
Birmingham, AL 35209

Mrs. John R. Miller
4083 Springdale Road
Mobile, AL 36609

Mitchell Memorial Library
 Serials Technical Service
 Mississippi State Univ,
 State College, MS 39762

Chester & Marie Moncrief
 Route 4
 Alexander City, AL 35010

Ms. Julia I. Moore
 106 Darwin Lane
 Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Nonkes
 606 N. Mobile Street
 Fairhope, AL 36532

Mr. & Mrs. George R. Painter
 2930 Thompson Circle
 Huntsville, AL 35801

Ms. Dorothy W. Parker
 Route #1, Box 254
 Harpersville, AL 35078

Mr. Richard A. Parks
 253 14th Street, Apt. 12, NE
 Atlanta, GA 30309

Mr. Jim Parrish
 Route 3, Box 323
 Keenes Mill Road
 Cottondale, AL 35453

Mr. James V. Peavy, Jr.
 2630 Cahaba Road
 Birmingham, AL 35223

Mrs. W. H. Persons
 2148 Shadybrook Lane
 Birmingham, AL 35226

Dr. O. S. Pettingill, Jr.
 Wayne, Maine 04284

Mr. Millard F. Prather
 736 44th Place South
 Birmingham, AL 35222

Mrs. Leslie Reed
 4428 Constance St.
 New Orleans, LA 70115

Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Reid, Jr.
 2616 Mountain Brook Parkway
 Birmingham, AL 35223

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Richardson
 7830 Folkstone Drive
 Pensacola, FL 32504

Mr. Jon E. Rickert
 122 North Main
 Elizabethtown, KY 42701

Dr. Chandler S. Robbins
 Director, Migratory Bird
 Population Station
 Laurel, Maryland 20810

Mr. Paul Robinson
 P.O. Box 1868
 Decatur, AL 35601

Mrs. John Rogers
 Box 125
 Gainesville, AL 35464

Dr. & Mrs. Tom Rogers
 2708 43rd Avenue, E.
 Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Mr. Walter Rosene, Jr.
 127 Oak Circle
 Gadsden, AL 35901

Mr. David Allen Rowland
 Biology Department
 Walker College
 Jasper, AL 35501

Mrs. Madge Scharber
 3155 Woodhaven Drive
 Birmingham, AL 35243

Mrs. Ruth C. Schatz
 21 Oakridge Drive
 Pelham, AL 35124

Mr. James W. Shepard
 101 South 20th Street
 Birmingham, AL 35233

Mr. Robert W. Simonson
 Route #1, Box 804
 Irvington, AL 36544

Dr. Eugene B. Sledge
 Biology Department
 Alabama College
 Montevallo, AL 35115

Mrs. D. H. Smalley
 6 LaVera Drive
 Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Miss Myriam McAllister Smith
 560 Houston Street
 Mobile, AL 36606

Mrs. T. S. Snead
 845 South 42nd Street
 Birmingham, AL 35222

Mr. & Mrs. James R. Spafford
 7 North Catherine Street
 Mobile, AL 36604

Dr. Alda May Spieth
 1704 Springhill Avenue
 Mobile, AL 36604

Steve & Barbie Stedman
 Box 16346 University Center
 Knoxville, TN 37916

Dr. Henry M. Stevenson
 905 Briarcliffe Road
 Tallahassee, FL 32308

Mr. Percy Strickland, Jr.
 917 Loder Street
 Prattville, AL 36607

Dr. Donald Strong
 525 35th Avenue, E
 Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Mrs. C. Kivett Stuart
 2317 Hill Street
 Alexandria, LA 71301

Mrs. M. V. Sturtevant
 Route #9, Box 168
 Eight Mile, AL 36613

Dr. Charles W. Summerour
 1204 Sabina Drive
 Jacksonville, AL 36265

Mrs. Thomas G. Swindell
 404 Clay Street
 Alexander City, AL 35010

Tall Timers Research Station
 Route #1, Box 160
 Tallahassee, FL 32301

Mr. & Mrs. Percy Thigpen
1609 Stonewall Drive
Birmingham, AL 35226

Dr. & Mrs. James C. Thompson
134 Woodland Hills
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Janice Thrasher
#21 County Village
Trailer Park, Wire Road
Auburn, AL 36830

Mrs. Henry K. Toenes
Box 147
Dauphin Island, AL 36528

Rev. E. M. Turk, S. J.
Loyola Center
16142 Holmur
Detroit, Michigan 48221

Mrs. Thomas E. Twitty
4363 Old Shell Road
Mobile, AL 36608

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Tyson
1515 Milner Crescent
Birmingham, AL 35205

The University of Alabama
Main Library
P.O. Box "S"
University, AL 35486

Univ. of South Alabama Library
307 University Blvd.
Mobile, AL 36688

Mr. G. Bernard Van Cleve
304 South Winebiddle Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Mr. Van Waggoner
1315 McFarland Blvd. E.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Mr. Cliff Walters
Dutch Mountain Nursery
Augusta, Michigan 49012

Mr. Dallas M. Ward
225 Rue Maison, Apt. G
Mobile, AL 36608

Mr. Wayne C. Weber
Department of Zoology
P.O. Drawer Z
State College, MS 39762

Mr. & Mrs. Wiley M. Wilkinson
510 Arlington Drive
Metairie, LA 70011

Ms. Marge Williams
2060 Terrace Street
Mobile, AL 36606

Mr. Morris Williams
Museum of Zoology
L.S.U.
Baton Rouge, LA 70897

Mr. T. McRae Williams
755 Ellsworth Drive, N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30318

Mrs. L. R. Willis
1051 West Chalet Drive
Mobile, AL 36608

Mr. John T. Winn
4179 Latern Lane, South
Mobile, AL 36609

Mr. & Mrs. William J. Wynne
2513 (#217) Bob Wallace S.W.
Huntsville, AL 35805

SUMMARY OF SPRING BOARD MEETING

The A.O.S. Board of Directors Meeting was held at the library of the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium at 1:00 P.M. on April 28, 1979. Those attending were Jim Thompson, Tom and Martha Rogers, Bob Duncan, Bob Reid, Fairly Chandler, Curtis Kingsberry, Dwight Cooley, Douglass McGinty and Harriett Wright. Two new members of the board were introduced, Dwight Cooley and Douglass McGinty.

President Jim Thompson announced that because of increased duties in his work he must resign as President of A.O.S. Dwight Cooley who had accepted the nomination as Vice President will assume the office of President of A.O.S. Tom Rogers who has been Vice President will become Editor of Alabama Birdlife.

The A.O.S. business meeting immediately followed the directors meeting. Martha Rogers, Treasurer, reported that following the fall 1978 meeting there was a balance of \$756.00 in the treasury.

Tom Rogers made a motion and it was duly seconded and unanimously carried to budget \$100.00 to help defray the expense of cutting the Shell Mound bowl or the Pig Pen area in the Audubon Sanctuary on Dauphin Island. The following resolutions were approved by the board and adopted by the members unanimously; Bob Reid made the presentations:

1. A.O.S. is opposed to the granting of any additional drilling permits for exploratory oil and gas wells in Mobile Bay.
2. A.O.S. expresses opposition to the release for industrial development of lands in the Mallard-Fox Creek Wildlife Management Area on the Tennessee River west of Decatur.
3. A.O.S. supports preservation of Little Point Clear on Mobile Bay for Fish and Wildlife purposes and opposes the proposed dredge and fill development in that area.

Nancy Garrett requested letters by A.O.S. members expressing concern for Little Point Clear to the Army Corps of Engineers opposing dredging and development in the Little Point Clear area; letters to Congressman Jack Edwards to request that the Fish and Wildlife Department purchase the land of Little Point Clear; letters to Glen Greenwalt for support of preserving these marshes at Little Point Clear.

The new President, Dwight Cooley, proposed a winter meeting for A.O.S. in the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Area. The dates were to be decided upon.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) BE IT RESOLVED by the Alabama Ornithological Society that this Society does hereby strongly recommend and urge that no permits for dredging or fill operations be granted for the Little Point Clear area on Mobile Bay and that that area be preserved for fish and wildlife uses as the valuable and irreplaceable natural asset and resource it now is for the benefit of the State of Alabama and the general public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in evidence of its concern as to the need for such preservation, a copy of this resolution be sent to the United States Senators of the State of Alabama, the United States Representative of the First Congressional District of Alabama, the Mobile District Engineer of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the President of the Alabama Water Improvement Commission, the Attorney-General of Alabama, the Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and any other agencies or public officials concerned.

- 2) BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Alabama Ornithological Society that the action of its Conservation Committee in expressing opposition of the Society to the granting of any additional drilling permits for exploratory oil and gas wells in Mobile Bay be hereby in all respects ratified, approved and confirmed.

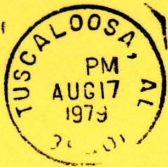
- 3) BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Alabama Ornithological Society that the action of its President in expressing opposition of the Society to the release for industrial development of lands in the Mallard-Fox Creek Wildlife Management Area on the Tennessee River west of Decatur and opposing the granting of permits for dredging and other operations incident to such developments be hereby in all respects ratified, approved and confirmed, and that the Conservation Committee be authorized to submit comments in behalf of the Society of the draft environmental impact statement of TVA proposing the release of certain of such lands for industrial development and, in that connection, to coordinate the views of the Society with those of other conservation organizations desiring to preserve such lands for wildlife management, conservation and outdoor recreation available to the general public.

IN MEMORIAM

Fr. J. Lambert Dorn, S. J.

May 27, 1979

Dean of our coastal ornithologists, Father Dorn, through his many years, brought a knowledge of Alabama's birdlife and its appreciation to countless numbers of those who had the opportunity to know him and to share the great amount of information he had about our coastal birdlife. He was also compiler of the Mobile Christmas Bird Count for many years and an observer for the Breeding Bird Survey of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service since that project was extended to Alabama in 1966. His contributions to ornithology are attested by the numerous records reported under his name; and, although he will be greatly missed, the knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of our natural world that he stimulated will long endure for the benefit of future generations. AOS extends its deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.



EDITOR'S NOTE

I am looking forward to being Editor of Alabama Birdlife, but its success will depend on those of you who are willing to make contributions to its content. The present issue represents what I think is a good start. Many of you have information which is publishable but are hesitant to submit the material. It would be helpful if you would send your observations and ideas to the Editor (including your complaints) because you may have valuable information. An effort will be made to include a wide variety of material in order to satisfy the diversity of our membership. Give Alabama Birdlife an opportunity to be the outlet for your ideas.

D. Thomas Rogers, Editor