

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Some of the residents in the neighborhood said that two, and sometimes three, parakeets had been using the nest for at least three years (now four), but none knew for sure if any young had ever been raised. Benjie Blair, a student at Jacksonville State University, checked the nest this past May (1990) and said that House Sparrows and Starlings were using it, but the parrots were not seen. Later in the summer the sparrows and starlings were gone and the parakeets had returned.

At this writing nothing is known about the status of the Monk Parakeet in the Huntsville area. This is the first reported nest in Alabama and so far the only one known. There is a rumor of another nest in Madison, just west of Huntsville, and I have talked with other Huntsville residents who recall having seen "large green parakeets" flying over town as long as ten years ago. The evidence suggests that there may well be other parakeets nesting in Huntsville, and possibly in nearby towns as well.

Anyone interested in seeing the birds should contact me or the Sargents for directions.

Bill Summerour, Biology Department, Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL, 36265.

ATLANTA ARCHITECT DESIGNS HOUSING FOR BARN OWLS (*TYTO ALBA*)

Bill Summerour

Thanks to a conservation-minded Atlanta architect, Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) in the Atlanta area will have new nesting sites to choose from this spring. Keith Summerour of Gruber and Associates Architects, an Atlanta based architectural firm, has designed the housing for two pumping stations and has included accommodations in them for Barn Owls. Keith said he first got the idea in Europe where he had observed owl holes under the gables of 18th and 19th century barns.

One of the stations, now completed, is in Lake Peachtree near Peachtree City and the other will be constructed about 30 miles south of Atlanta in a wooded area near Line Creek. Both pumping stations are under the authority of the Fayette County Water Authority. The Peachtree Lake station is designed somewhat like a miniature castle with four

towers or turrets, one at each corner of the building. Each of the two towers facing the lake has an entrance hole for the owls, a 5 x 5 foot nesting platform 18 inches below the hole, and a perching bar for roosting.

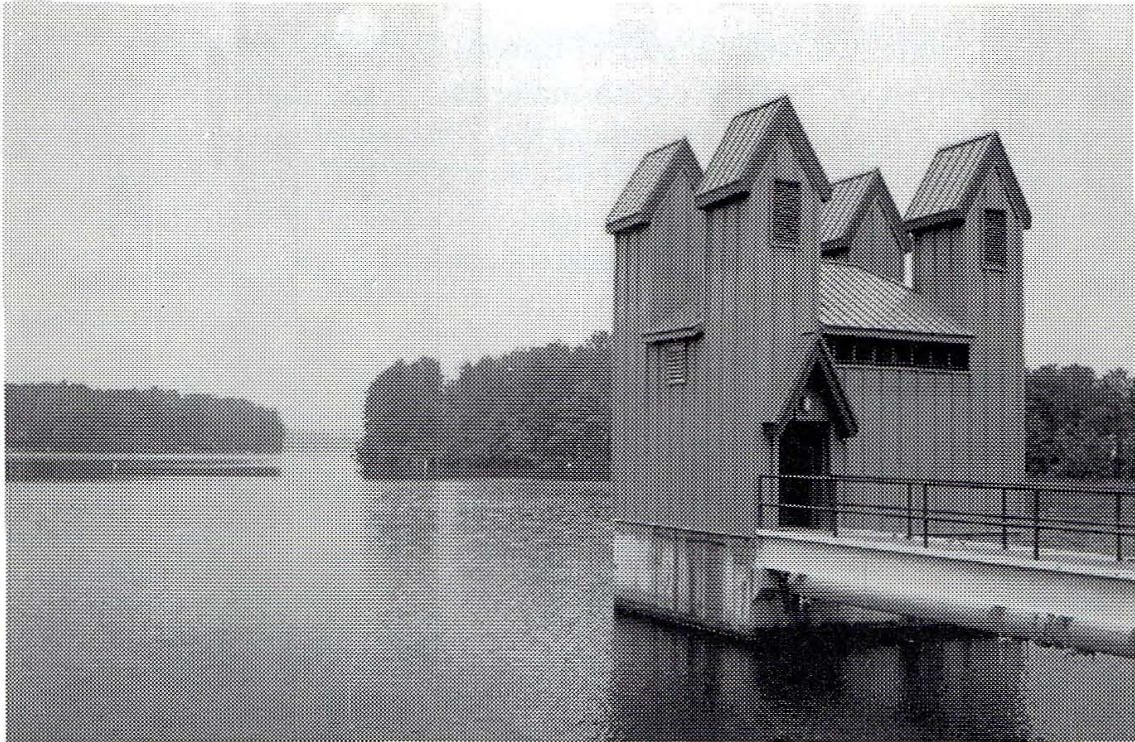


Figure 1. Pumping station with towers designed as nesting sites for Barn Owls. The two towers facing the lake have owl holes under the gables. (Photo by Eugene Britton)

A picture of the building accompanied by an article describing the design, and a description of the Barn Owl towers, has been published in the *Architectural Record*, a major architectural magazine. Future articles about the building will appear in other publications in December and April. In my view, the owls will need some help in finding the holes. If anyone has any ideas on how this might be done, or has any orphaned Barn Owls that need a home, contact *Keith Summerour, 1271B Kingsley Circle, Atlanta, GA 30324* or *Bill Summerour, Biology Dept., Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL 36265*.

