

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

seen earlier in the morning at Ft. Pickens and reaching Ft. Morgan by midday were nocturnal migrants originating their journey the night before from somewhere in peninsular Florida. These birds could have wintered there or stopped over from movements out of the West Indies or South America.

**Robert A. Duncan**, 614 Fairpoint Dr., Gulf Breeze, FL 32561.

### IN MEMORIAM

#### JOHN FINDLAY III, 1920 - 1995

John Findlay III, born in Wakefield, Massachusetts, was such an anticipated son (after the birth of many girls), that in his honor a local street was named "Findlay Street." Seventy-five years later, true to form, "John Findlay III Drive" was the name given to the main road through Oak Mountain State Park, the largest state park in Alabama. This time the road was so named because his Bluebird Trail and dedication had made a real difference in the recovery of the Bluebird population in the northern Shelby County area.

When a child in Massachusetts, Boy Scouting was the vehicle that developed his interest in birds. John won an award for identifying the most species of nesting birds in the area. His adult life took him to Michigan and Illinois, where he became a member of both Audubon Societies. As a salesman supporting a wife and three children, he nevertheless expanded his knowledge of birds and began his first Bluebird Trail in Illinois with seven nest boxes. In 1977, in Alabama, he again began a Bluebird Trail with seven nest boxes, which increased to 180 nest boxes before his death in January, 1995. His trail

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

has produced more than 6300 fledglings, and he and his wife Harriet banded over 3200 Bluebirds. Their combined love of birds and photography helped. John created his program, "Help Bring Back the Bluebird" which he presented to numerous garden clubs, children's groups and civic organizations in the state. No wonder he was affectionately called "Mr. Bluebird." His awards and recognitions include:

Member of Peoria Academy of Science

Kelly Mosely Environmental Award, 1985

Birmingham Mayor Richard Arrington proclaimed Dec. 6, 1985 "John Findlay III Day"

Individual award winner for Alabama's entry in "Take Pride in America," 1986

Featured as "Hometown Hero," July, 1990 on NBC-TV in Birmingham

Elected to North America Bluebird Society Board of Directors for three years, 1986

Received "Special Award" at North American Bluebird Society convention in Gettysburg, October, 1990

Named "Hero of the Month" by WZZK radio, Birmingham, August 1990

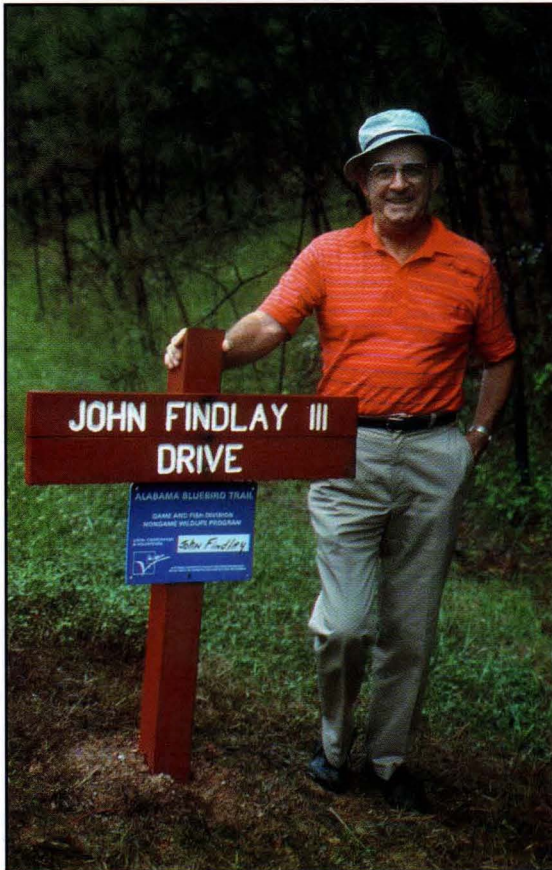
Received "Iva Stover Award," November, 1990, Jefferson County Alabama Office of Senior Citizen Activities

Author of widely distributed brochure about Bluebirds

Regular contributor of articles to North American Bluebird Society publication, *Sialia*.

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

A local group of Bluebird devotees will continue to monitor the John Findlay III Bluebird trail with financial assistance from Birmingham Audubon Society John Findlay III Bluebird Trail fund. His program, "Help Bring Back the Bluebird" will still be presented in his name. **Barbara Munson**, 1149 N Shadesview Terr., Homewood, AL 35209



John Findlay, III

# ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

## IN MEMORIAM

### CURTIS L. KINGSBERY, 1918-1995

The birding community of Florida and Alabama suffered a great loss with the death of Curtis Kingsbery on 18 May, 1995. He was a past president of the Francis M. Weston Audubon Society in Pensacola and its field trip chairman for more than twenty years. He was also a board member of AOS; Regional Reporter for Northwest Florida for *Audubon Field Notes/American Birds*; and compiler of the Pensacola Christmas Bird Count and other surveys, including the Breeding Bird Survey for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

After retiring from the insurance business seven years ago, Curtis developed and taught three weekly birding classes under the auspices of Pensacola Junior College. He encouraged his students to become concerned environmentalists and led them on field trips to various birding locations in the Southeast United States. He also initiated birding and nature trips to Alaska, Costa Rica and Arizona. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather and a devout Christian. He served on the administrative board of his church, the United Cerebral Palsy Board and on the Escambia County Girl Scout Council.

As Miriam Jennings wrote of him in the F.M. Weston Audubon Society Newsletter, *The Skimmer*: "Our memories of Curtis will recall a man of infinite patience, enthusiasm, and unfailing gentleness and civility: a man of extraordinary fits who guided us along much more than nature trails and taught us lessons beyond bird lore. We have indeed lost a cherished friend."



## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

**Merilu Sands**, 508 Quail Nest Lane, Pensacola, FL 32514.



Curtis L. Kingsbery

### IN MEMORIAM

**Dr. Thomas A. Imhof, 1920—1995**

Tom had a deep love of birds that was reflected in a lifetime of achievement — elected Fellow of the American Ornithologists Union; author of *Alabama Birds*; co-founder, Past-President and board member of the Birmingham Audubon Society, Co-Chairman of the Committee on "Partners-In-Flight" and teacher of ornithology at the Audubon Mountain Workshop in Mentone, Alabama; Past-President and board member of the Alabama Ornithological Society; member of the initial Board of Directors of The Alabama

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Conservancy; chairman of ornithological surveys for the Bankhead Forest Wilderness and proposed wild and scenic river status for the Cahaba River; recipient of an honorary Doctor of Science degree by the University of Alabama; coordinator of Breeding Bird Surveys for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alabama, with personal routes in Alabama and Florida; Alabama State Reporter and Regional Christmas Count and Spring Season Reporter for *American Birds* (formerly *Audubon Field Notes*); organizer and/or compiler of numerous Christmas and migration bird counts, including West Jefferson County, Dauphin Island, Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Bankhead National Forest, North American Migration Count for Jefferson County, Jefferson County Spring and Fall Migration counts and notably the Birmingham Audubon Christmas Bird Count, which he compiled for almost 50 years; member of the Wilson Ornithological Society and of the North American Bird Banding Association. Incidentally, Tom banded over 25,000 birds since receiving his banding license in 1939.

Tom called St. Patrick's Day his "anniversary," having taken advantage of that school holiday to observe gulls and shorebirds as a boy on Long Island. Janie, Tom's wife, declared that birds were in his genes, recalling that Tom's grandfather in England would skip school to go birdwatching. Indeed, if he inherited his love of birds from his ancestors, Tom devoted his life to careful observation, note-taking and meticulous recordkeeping so that he might instill in and pass on that love to others. Always a student, at age 70+ Tom traveled Europe (where his binoculars were blessed by the Pope!), to Africa and to Costa

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Rica. Always a teacher, his appreciation for God's creation was shared with those of us touched by his life. Tom was deeply devoted to his church, to his wife of 50 years, Janie, and to his children and grandchildren. Whether you only knew him by reputation or whether you were fortunate enough to have birded with Tom, you knew he was special. Thank you, Tom. Your presence and wisdom are deeply missed. **Sharon Hudgins**, 5660 Pine Street, McCalla, AL 35111-9238



Dr. Thomas A. Imhof