

North American Migration Count - Alabama .2002

May 11th marked the tenth year for the North American Migration Count. AOS has been an active participant since that first year, 1992. That year we started out with only one county, Tuscaloosa. The next year Sharon Hudgins began coordinating our effort and recruiting teams, resulting in coverage of 31 counties, our highest number.

Activities have settled down now with teams covering ten counties again this year. As we mentioned last year, the counties included in this years survey cover the major physiographic regions of the state, Mobile and Baldwin for the Gulf Coast region (lower unit) of the East Gulf Coastal Plain. The lower unit extends northward to include Montgomery, Lee, and the portions of Bibb surveyed. Jefferson, Shelby, and St Clair are in the Mountain region with Marshall and Morgan closing out to the north in the Tennessee Valley Region (more properly the Interior Low Plateau region). Unfortunately, we are again missing Colbert County in the Tennessee Valley Region.

Table 1, Alabama State Summary, attached, includes the individual county compilations, arranged from left to right in the geographic order from south to north, the order cited above by physiographic regions. Baldwin Co. had the largest number of species, while Montgomery had the largest number of birds. Mobile came in second in both these measures. Table 2, Summary Comparison, Alabama 1993-2000 provides a comparative measure of results and effort over the past ten years. Table 2 includes the date of the count for each year. Not surprisingly, there is a strong negative correlation between count date and number of species, the earlier the date the higher the species count. There is a strong positive correlation between total birds counted and total party hours/observers. This years bird count was the lowest in the last five years.. This is not surprising since the number of parties, number of observers and total party hours were the lowest in our ten year history of NAMC participation. We need 50 party hours in each of the counties if the results are going to be meaningful.

We are working on the species data to see if the ten years of data we have can show any statistically meaningful observations on populations/distributions..

We thank all the dedicated birders listed below.... As well as those who worked but didn't get credit... It was a very hot day!

*Baldwin: **Venetia Friend**, Bill Burroughs, Betsy Eagar, Keith Carter, Allen Tubbs, Jan Lloyd,
Bibb: **David George**, Tom Clark;*

*Jefferson: **Greg Harber**, Sharon Hudgins, Cheryl Horncastle*

*Lee: **Julian Dusi**, Rosemary Dusi, Lorna West, Geoffrey Hill, Chester Roe,*

*Marshall: **Linda Reynolds**, Duane Brown, Lynn Brown, Lynne Hurley;*

Mobile, Mike Wilson, Joan Siegwald, Terry Hartley, Tuck Hayward,

*Montgomery: **Larry Gardella**, Fred Bassett, Pat Johnson, Shawn Reed, Bob Reed,
Carolyn Snow,*

*Morgan: **Dwight Cooley**, Dean Cutten, Ruelene Cutten*

*St. Clair: **Robert R. Reid Jr.**, Elberta G. Reid, Faith Stockton, Cheryl Horncastle*

*Shelby: **Fred Moore**, Stan Hamilton*

Thanks for your continued participation

John Porter, Compiler

