

THOMAS Z. ATKESON HONORED

The highlight of the spring A.O.S. meeting was the presentation of the American Motors Conservation Award to Thomas Z. Atkeson, biologist for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife at Wheeler Wildlife Refuge. We all know Tom as our friend and guide when we visit the refuge and rejoice with him in this recognition.

The presentation was made by Dr. A. L. Hershey, Vice President of the Alabama Wildlife Federation, who outlined the history of the American Motors Conservation Awards Program. This program, originally the Nash Awards Program, was begun in 1953 and was intended as a recognition of the fact that our renewable natural resources are a God-given heritage, to be used wisely and defended against waste and reckless exploitation.

The program consists of ten awards to professional conservation workers and ten to amateur conservationists. The awards to the professionals are accompanied by a gift of \$500 to be used by the recipient as he pleases.

Dr. Hershey, in pointing out the many qualities which Tom Atkeson possesses, had this to say:

"He is highly esteemed among his associates and conservation organizations in this and in many other states. He is devoted to his work and profoundly aware of his responsibilities. In spite of unfortunate physical handicaps, Mr. Atkeson has shown a willingness to perform his work and assist fellow workers, teachers, sportsmen, and organizations represented here tonight to a degree rarely exceeded by others.

"It is gratifying to know that his interest in conservation has been recognized by others and that Mr. Atkeson was nominated for an American Conservation Award."

Tom, we congratulate you. We, too, want to thank you for your outstanding contribution in the field of conservation in Alabama, as well as your personal help and inspiration to your many friends all over the area.

—IDALENE SNEAD (MRS. T. S.), 845 South 42nd Street, Birmingham, Ala.

MINUTES OF A.O.S. MEETING APRIL 29-30, 1960

The Alabama Ornithological Society held its semi-annual meeting at Montè Sano State Park on April 29th and 30th, 1960. Thirty-four members and visitors were present.

The business meeting was held Saturday night after the smorgasbord dinner at George's Restaurant. The president, Tom Imhof, called the meeting to order and postponed the business until after the program since Gene and Adele West, who were our program, had to leave early. Mr. and Mrs. West presented a most professionally done film entitled "Glimpse of the Seasons" which, as the name implies, showed wild life during the various seasons. Most of the scenes were filmed in and around Chattanooga with the most familiar birds and scenes glamorized so that one felt these must not be the same ones that we knew. The filming was superb and could compete with the best of the Screen Tours. Adele's talk was equally as good as the pictures, and she explained how she had used this film to help familiarize the neophytes with some of our common dooryard birds. Anyone who missed this A. O. S. meeting certainly did miss one of our nicest programs in a long time.

In addition to the talented West team we had another rare treat—Tom Z. Atkeson the field biologist for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge, was presented with the American Conservation Award by Dr. A. L. Hershey of Florence State Teachers' College. The American Motors Conservation Awards Program was begun in 1953 to recognize outstanding work in the field of conservation. We were all delighted to be present on this occasion when Tom was so honored. In addition to the plaque and citation there was also a cash award of \$500.

Blanche Chapman gave her report asking again that all material for Alabama Birdlife be turned in to her by the deadline.

The Nominating Committee, composed of Tom Atkeson, Edith Clark, and Mrs. Roy Brownlie, presented the slate of officers to be voted upon. The following people were elected: Tom Imhof for President, Dr. M. W. Gaillard for Vice President, and Mrs. James C. Robinson for Treasurer.

Plans for the fall A. O. S. meeting were discussed. It was decided that the fall meeting should be held between October 15 and November 10 on Dauphin Island, and that all future fall meetings are to be held at Dauphin Island.

The check list was compiled with a total of 81 species having been seen. Some of the interesting things were the Warbling Vireos, the numerous Redstarts' nests, and the Scarlet Tanager feeding in a garbage can just as if he were a Starling.

After this, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
IDALENE F. SNEAD, Secretary