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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

In addition to serving as a rewarding hobby, furnishing desired recreation and stimulating conservation of our natural resources, birding -- by both amateur and professional -- can contribute to the growth of scientific knowledge. More and more people are becoming active each year in conducting bird surveys, banding birds and otherwise studying them. We must bear in mind, however, that a significant observation can do no more than bring pleasure to the observer unless it is reported to those who are in a position to collect the data or is written up for publication. All of us should, therefore, report our observations. In this way we can not only bring pleasure to our fellow birders who are interested in our activities but also contribute to the fund of ornithological information.

AOS has directors for the various geographical regions of Alabama. Their names are set forth on the back cover. They are some of the most knowledgeable birders in the state and can advise you whether your observations are significant. They will also be glad to review any note or article you may write. Therefore, we urge you to report your observations to them so that they can turn significant ones in to the editors of ALABAMA BIRDLIFE and our AOS Newsletter. Articles of a more scientific nature should be published in ALABAMA BIRDLIFE while shorter field notes should appear in the Newsletter. If your observation is thought to be of particular importance, such as a new inland or coastal record or early, late or abundant migration, make sure it gets to Mr. Tom Imhof so that it might be reported in Audubon Field Notes; and if you have a nest record, be sure you turn it in to Dr. Julian Dusi so it can be included in the North American Nest Record Program. In this way our members may serve the study of ornithology as well as enjoying it.

I feel sure all of us have friends who would be interested in one or more aspects of birding so let me ask you to encourage them to participate in our activities and join us as members of AOS. As you will note from the minutes of the last executive council meeting in Jackson, AOS is now operating on a rather tight budget because publication costs are rising as are most other expenses. We need either to increase our membership or to increase our dues. Those who can do so might assist the Society by becoming sustaining members at \$5 annual dues instead of the regular \$2. Our regular dues are very low compared to similar organizations so a modest increase should not be out of order. However, it would be preferable to increase our membership for we would then be adding new voices for conservation and potential collectors of ornithological information. Therefore, let me urge each of you this coming year to interest at least one additional person in joining the Society. For your convenience an application blank was included at the end of the last newsletter although no set form is required. The name and address of the new member need only be sent with the appropriate dues to the Treasurer.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a very happy and prosperous New Year and better birding in 1967.

Robert R. Reid, Jr.