

MINUTES OF 15th ANNUAL MEETING
ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
APRIL 21-23, 1967

The 15th Annual Spring Meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was held at Dauphin Island, Alabama, on April 21-23, 1967. The Holiday House Apartments were headquarters for the meeting, and 128 members and guests were registered, representing eight states -- Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, Tennessee, Indiana and Texas.

Field Trips and Friday Evening Program

Informal field trips were conducted on the island Friday by members of the Mobile Bird Club and Tom and John Imhof. Other field trips to the Indian Shell Mounds, the eastern and western ends of the island, the bird sanctuary, causeway, and Bellingrath Gardens were conducted Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday morning by Tuck Hayward, Tom Imhof, Fairly Chandler, Clara Caffey, Louise McKinstry, Lib Toenes, Ross Partridge and Blanche Dean. In addition, Jim and Margaret Robinson, Margaret Miller and Mike Bierly conducted netting and banding operations that were of much interest to the members and guests attending the meeting.

The program Friday evening began with the showing of slides at the Alabama Marine Resources Laboratory. The members attending enjoyed excellent and most interesting slides by Jim Keeler of his Mexican Adventure and by Mr. Olan Dillon, our guest from Texas, of plants that would attract birds as well as some interesting birds and animals of the West. The President also showed a few slides on the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia and urged the members to write the Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., promptly to support inclusion of the swamp in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Meeting of Executive Council

The Executive Council met at 12:00 noon April 22, 1967, at the LeMoyné Restaurant on Dauphin Island with the following members present: Mr. Robert R. Reid, Jr., President; Mr. James C. Robinson, Vice-President; Mr. Frank D. Huttlinger, Treasurer; Mrs. Hellen H. Kittinger, Secretary; Dr. Maurice F. Baker, Editor, ALABAMA BIRDLIFE; Dr. Dan C. Holliman, Director and Editor of Newsletter; Mr. Robert E. Waters, Immediate Past President; Mr. P. Fairly Chandler, Mrs. Harriett H. Wright, Mr. James E. Keeler, Dr. Wm. J. Calvert, Mr. Thomas A. Imhof and Mrs. Margaret L. Robinson, Directors.

The reading of the minutes was dispensed with since they had been previously printed in ALABAMA BIRDLIFE and were approved as printed. The President stated that the following had been appointed and were serving on the committee to audit the Treasurer's books: Mr. Waters, Chairman, and Mr. Keeler.

Dr. Baker reported that in 1966 ALABAMA BIRDLIFE was published in three issues totaling 47 pages. Total costs were: Printing, \$254.16; postage, \$25; and reprints of articles, \$17.70. Total: \$296.86. Total costs for the first issue of 1967 were \$117.12. Although printing charges continue to increase, total costs were held down by reducing the size of the run to about 100 more than the current mailing list. This leaves an adequate reserve for future orders. Reprints are distributed free of charge to authors to encourage the submission of articles.

Dr. Holliman reported that four issues of the Newsletter, consisting of a total of 40 pages, were published during the last year and expended the funds budgeted for that purpose. The issues contained five articles, eleven shorter notes of observations, summaries of certain Christmas, migration and meeting counts, programs for the meetings and other announcements.

Plans for future meetings were discussed -- the next Spring Meeting to be held at Dauphin Island, April 19-21, 1968.

The necessity of raising dues of the Society was then discussed, and it was pointed out that because of increased printing costs, the income of the Society is now only barely sufficient to finance its present activities and leaves no room for any additional publication expenses or additional activities. It was also noted that the Society's present dues are rather modest when compared to those of similar non-profit organizations and have not been increased since initially set in 1952. After discussion, it was determined that the annual dues of active members should be raised from \$2 to \$3 and associate (out-of-state) members from \$1.50 to \$2 with a comparable increase in life memberships. Dues for sustaining members and student members will remain at \$5 and \$1 per year, respectively, and there would naturally be no change in the provisions for honorary membership. Thereupon, it was, upon motion by Dr. Calvert, seconded by Mr. Waters and unanimously adopted, resolved that an amendment amending Article I, Section I, Subsections a, b and e of the By-laws of the Society to read as follows:

"Article I. Dues and Membership

Sec. 1. There shall be six classes of membership.

- a. Active Members. Entitled to all privileges of the Society upon payment of the annual dues ... \$3.00.
- b. Associate Members (out-of-state). Entitled to all of the privileges of the Society, except the privilege to hold office and vote, upon payment of the annual dues ... \$2.00.

* * *

- e. Life Members. Will be entitled to all the privileges of the Society, as a member desiring to pay his dues for the rest of his life in one sum. Memberships may be paid within a two-year period ... \$75.00."

be hereby approved to take effect beginning with the calendar year 1968 and that a resolution proposing such an amendment be presented for adoption at the business session of the 1967 fall meeting of the Society.

It was announced by the Present that the hawk protection legislation will proceed as previously discussed by introduction of an appropriate bill at the coming session of the legislature.

There was a discussion on stream channelization, specifically the Swan Creek Project in Limestone County. After much discussion, it was decided to defer any official action pending resolution of the problems presented by the project through conferences among the State Department of Conservation, the Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and that, if there were any significant developments prior to the fall meeting, to advise the membership of the pros and cons involved through the Newsletter and let the individual members take whatever action they might feel necessary. Dr. Clavert also moved that the incoming officers be given authority to act for the Society on this matter should they consider it advisable; the motion was seconded and adopted by all those voting. The meeting was duly adjourned at 1:40 P. M.

Business Meeting

The business meeting of the membership was called to order by the President at 1:45 P. M. at the Alabama Marine Resources Laboratory on Dauphin Island. The minutes of the fall business meeting held on November 19, 1966, at Jackson were read and approved. Mr. Waters, Chairman of the Auditing Committee, reported that the committee's examination indicated the treasurer's books to be in order, and the report was approved.

The President stated that under the By-laws of the Society, Mr. James C. Robinson, its present Vice-President, would succeed to the presidency for the coming year. In the absence of the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Dr. Dan Holliman reported the following nominations for next year's officers: Helen H. Kittinger - Vice-President; and Louise N. McKinstry - Treasurer. The President opened the floor for any other nominations and, there being none, the nominations were closed. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the officers proposed by the nominating committee were unanimously elected. Following report of the Lawrence's Warbler netted in the bird sanctuary, the meeting was rapidly adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

Program and Banquet

The banquet and program were held Saturday night at the Dauphin Island Civic Building. A delicious seafood buffet was served by a civic group for the benefit of the Dauphin Island Volunteer Fire Department.

The President introduced the officers, directors and guests, and

Frank Huttlinger supervised the drawing of the door prizes. The main prize was BIRDS OF THE WORLD by Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr., former AOS President, and other prizes were A GATHERING OF SHOREBIRDS by Henry M. Hall, ALABAMA BIRDS by Tom Imhof, a beautiful painting of Pintails on wood by Margaret Robinson's mother, and sets of Audubon and Arthur Singer prints.

The highlight of the meeting was the transferring of the bird sanctuary from Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board to National Audubon Society, Dr. M. Wilson Gaillard, presiding, followed by a discussion of future plans for the bird sanctuary and benefits to be derived from it by Mr. John Anderson, Director of Sanctuaries, National Audubon Society. Then an excellent program of slides on wildlife sanctuaries in the Bahama Islands and some of the work being carried on there was presented by Mr. Alexander Sprunt, IV, Director of Research for the National Audubon Society.

Compilation

Following the field trips on Sunday morning, a compilation of birds observed during the meeting was held at the headquarters with Mr. Tom Imhof in charge. A total of 155 species was recorded. Highlight of the meeting was the extremely rare Lawrence's Warbler (the recessive hybrid of the Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers) netted and banded by Margaret Robinson and her crew of Lynn Childers and Max Harmon. This was the fifth record for Alabama and the first record for our Gulf Coast. Also noteworthy were the Glossy Ibis observed at Cedar Point (except for some wintering individuals, a near early record), the Red-throated Loon off the causeway (sixth record for the Gulf Coast and eighth for the state), the Black Turns (a near early record for the state), and the Canada Goose on Theodore Pond and Hermit Thrush (late records for the Gulf Coast). The 30 plus Brown Pelicans were encouraging on account of reduced numbers of that bird on the Gulf Coast in recent years. Also of particular interest to those attending the meeting were the Clapper Rail's nest containing ten eggs found on the west end of Dauphin Island, the pair of Mottled Ducks also observed in that area, the American Oystercatchers near the causeway and the Long-billed Marsh Wrens.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen H. Kittinger, Secretary