

MINUTES OF FALL MEETING
ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OCTOBER 13-15, 1967

The regular fall meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was held at Florence, Alabama, on October 13-15, 1967. Headquarters was the King's Inn, on U. S. Highway 72 East. Forty-seven members and guests attended the meeting.

Executive Council Meeting

The Executive Council met at 10:25 a.m. on October 14. Present were: James C. Robinson, President; Helen H. Kittinger, Vice President; Louise N. McKinstry, Treasurer; Elberta G. Reid, Secretary; Robert R. Reid, Jr., Immediate Past President; Julian L. Dusi, Editor, Alabama Birdlife, Librarian and Director; Rosemary T. Dusi, Margaret L. Robinson, Thomas A. Imhof, and James E. Keeler, Directors.

Minutes of the June Council meeting were read and approved.

Action on the old business regarding water pollution was deferred until after the program on that subject Saturday evening.

It was moved and agreed to unanimously that a resolution on stream channelization be presented at the general business meeting.

A tentative budget of \$525.00 was adopted for the coming calendar year, to be distributed as follows: Alabama Birdlife, \$350.00; Newsletter, \$150.00; Treasurer's office, \$25.00. It was voted that the subscription price of Alabama Birdlife be \$2.00 a year, or \$.75 per copy, to non-members.

James Keeler reported that the hawk legislation, proposed by the society, had passed the house but had bogged down in the senate. He felt that it should be passed during the next session.

The President announced the formation of a Huntsville group with some 25 members, including five from AOS. The group had voted to affiliate with AOS. Therefore the council voted to affiliate the group as the Huntsville Chapter of the Alabama Ornithological Society.

Thomas Imhof proposed that the society sponsor the acquisition of a color slide collection of Alabama birds. The council instructed the President to appoint a committee to investigate the feasibility and details of such an undertaking and report at the next meeting. The committee appointed was: Margaret L. Robinson, Chairman; Julian L. Dusi, Thomas A. Imhof, James E. Keeler, Helen H. Kittinger and Harriett H. Wright.

Thomas Imhof also suggested the society investigate establishment of a coastal sanctuary for water birds, in Alabama.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

General Business Meeting

The general business meeting was called to order by the President at 1:25 p.m., October 14. A quorum was present.

Minutes of the annual meeting, in April, were read and amended to change the number of states represented from eight to nine and to add the name of Connecticut to the list. The amended minutes were then approved.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$466.71 in the checking account, \$283.70 in the savings account (life membership fund) and a total of 238 members.

The amendment of the AOS By-laws, Article I, Section 1, as presented at the Annual Meeting in April and published in the Newsletter, was voted to be changed 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 of 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."

It was voted that these changes take place beginning with the calendar year of 1968.

The following resolution on stream channelization was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and some other agencies in cooperation with local groups are employing or considering for virtually every significant stream in Alabama the channelization of those streams as an aid to the drainage of farm lands and for other purposes;

WHEREAS, a stream channelization project requires the clearing of a right-of-way, sometimes up to 100 feet, on each side of the stream, thereby necessitating the cutting down of trees in order to permit access by heavy dredging equipment to deepen the stream bed and straighten its sides and in order to provide an area for disposal of the soil taken from the bottom and sides of the stream;

WHEREAS, the cutting down of such trees and the channelizing of the stream must of necessity destroy the scenic and most recreational values of the stream and also the bottomland woods along its banks, which woods when destroyed cannot be replaced except over a great period of time;

WHEREAS, stream channelization appears the least preferable method of attempting drainage of lands since it runs counter to basic conservation practices that look toward holding back water and planting or preserving trees to retain water in the watershed;

WHEREAS, in the case of a stream channelization project, erosion arising from the cutting down of the trees and straightening the stream banks must be counteracted and problems of silting and flooding downstream must be alleviated;

WHEREAS, stream channelization projects destroy natural fish spawning grounds and food supplies as well as habitat for mammals, birds and other forms of wildlife;

WHEREAS, certain proposed stream channelization projects, such as the channelization of Swan Creek in Limestone County, would result in destruction of a significant part of the woodlands in the stream's watershed and, in that case, a significant part of the woodlands in the Swan Creek Waterfowl Management Area operated by the Alabama State Department of Conservation;

WHEREAS, in determining the cost-benefit ratio of stream channelization projects, the loss to the public arising from the destruction of woodlands is usually not taken into account; and

WHEREAS, the channelization of a stream requires the expenditure of relatively large amounts of taxpayer's funds, while in the case of farm lands such funds are at the same time being expended through the soil bank and similar programs for withdrawing other farm lands from production;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Alabama Ornithological Society that this Society does hereby strongly recommend and urge that stream channelization be discontinued as a method of attempting to drain farm lands or for any other purposes and that, in lieu thereof, the building of water retention structures and the increased use of other water retention practices such as contour planting be employed for those purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in evidence of the concern of the Society about this matter, certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Alabama, its Director of Conservation, the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, the State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service for the State of Alabama, the South Atlantic Division and Mobile District Engineers of the U. S. Corps of Engineers, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Southeast Regional Director for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, each of the United States Senators and Representatives from the State of Alabama, and any other agencies or public officials concerned.

It was voted that the Executive Council be instructed to publish a list of the membership biannually, in any form it thought suitable, and distribute it to the membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

(Minutes condensed from the Proceedings, by the Editor.)

Respectfully submitted,

Elberta G. Reid, Secretary

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