

no sightings of unusual birds. The boat headed west from Mobile Bay, under the Dauphin Island Causeway, and back into the Mississippi Sound. When the vessel started going west, the passengers began chumming the water with bread and suet in hopes of attracting a flock of gulls, and with them possibly a hungry jaeger. A large flock of gulls (mostly Laughing Gulls) was quickly attracted and provided a good opportunity for plumage study. Some trip members became quite adept at throwing pieces of bread so that the adult (and a few wise immature) Laughing Gulls would catch them in flight.

Although there was still much hope of seeing a rare or unusual bird, this hope was diminishing little by little. It was getting to the point where a Ring-billed Gull aroused great interest. Finally, however, the magic word was said - "Jaeger!" Tom Imhof was perched on the upper deck and spotted a lone jaeger in a distant flock of gulls toward the stern. The bird disappeared before anyone else could spot it, but the sighting quickly alerted all on board. Another jaeger (or possibly the original) appeared at the stern and then flew closer and off to port providing excellent views. Its appearance was followed by several other jaegers, and the boat was chasing all over the Sound in pursuit of the birds. The first birds seen were Pomarine Jaegers, and later some Parasitic Jaegers were observed. All of the individuals seen were light-phased. The jaegers were primarily identified on the basis of direct size comparisons with the many gulls which they were harassing. The Pominarines were noticeably larger than either the Laughing or Ring-billed Gulls, and the Parasitics were either smaller than or equal in size to the Laughing Gulls. After the birds were seen to everyone's satisfaction, the Aquarius headed toward Bayou La Batre and arrived about 4:00 p.m. The species seen on that day at sea are as follows: Common Loon, 25; Horned Grebe, 15; Double-crested Cormorant, 150+; Magnificent Frigatebird, 2; Lesser Scaup, 15; Bufflehead, 1; Surf Scoters?, 3; Red-breasted Merganser, 15; American Coot, 1; Pomarine Jaeger, 2; Parasitic Jaeger, 3; Jaeger sp., 1; Herring Gull, 200; Ring-billed Gull, 250; Laughing Gull, 3000; Forster's Tern, 100; Common Tern, 2; Royal Tern, 75.

A.O.S. FALL MEETING

The A.O.S. returned to Dauphin Island this year for its fall meeting October 11-13. The large attendance, including some 60 registrants, enjoyed a weekend of warm, clear weather and excellent birding. The Friday night program featured a slide presentation by Howard Einspahr on his recent trip to Arizona. The banquet Saturday night was a seafood buffet presented at St. Edmond's-by-the-Sea Catholic Church. The capacity crowd was treated to some unusual comments on field identification of birds by Bob Reid, in addition to Jim Keeler's slide presentation which described several Department of Conservation activities. These include Woodcock and heron banding programs and a hawk survey in the coastal plain region of Alabama.

Although the fine weather did not produce a good warbler flight, any disappointment on this account was relieved by the presence on the island of several "all-star" species that were well-seen by many of the participants. These included Reddish Egret, Peregrine and Merlin Falcons, Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and a deceased Noddy Tern, a victim of Hurricane Carmen, that had been carefully preserved in Lib Toenes' freezer. The occurrence of the white morph of the Great Blue Heron, formerly the Great White Heron, produced added excitement for many. Other notables were Magnificent Frigatebird, American Oystercatcher, Knot, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows. The eighteen species of warblers that were observed included Black-throated Green and Wilson's. The banding station at the Pigpen, tended by Margaret Miller and Buzz Peavy, added Least Flycatcher and Philadelphia Vireo to a list of 139 species recorded during the meeting weekend.