

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The air was blurred with dry leaves flying,
Gold and scarlet, gaily dying.
A squirrel ran off with a nut in his mouth,
And always, always, flying south,
Twittering, the birds went by,
Flickering sharp against the sky.

—Teasdale.

As the deep rich color of the autumn trees and the migration of myriad birds are etched in my memory, so are the days of the early beginnings of our organization. Long had there been a desire for such a group in the hearts of many, but each seemed to wait for another to initiate the movement. Early in January, 1952, the impulse came to sound out the few who were reputed to be interested in birds and nature in our state. Letter after letter was sent out to people who should be interested and to people whose names were recommended. Finally, April 15 was chosen for a state meeting. Twenty-two people from over the state met for dinner at Britling's, after a cold, damp field trip to Lake Purdy, and started the organization of the Alabama Ornithological Society. From time to time until now the response and interest have been most gratifying. After about a year and as half, from that small beginning has grown this strong organization of 89 members from all over Alabama and from Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, Texas, and Canada.

The group has not only grown in numbers, but in interest, and has worked to bring the lecturer, Charles L. Broley, with his lecture on eagles, in order that there might be funds to publish the first editions of **Alabama Bird-Life**. At least one chapter of the A.O.S. has been organized, the Auburn Bird Club, and soon there are to be others. Congratulations to that most enthusiastic group led by editor, Julian Dusi, and the new director of District 3, Hugh Cunningham! Over a part of the state, there has been participation in field trips, hawk migration studies, swift bandings, and probably other activities not yet reported. The individual members are discussing their parts in promotion of Bird Clubs, keeping records of the arrivals and departures of winter residents, migrants, and recording nesting data. There is a new consciousness, a new enthusiasm for learning to recognize birds and how to attract them!

So, with justifiable pride in the memory of the accomplishments of the past few months, Alabama is on the alert. She has joined the ranks of the enthusiastic bird-lovers over the nation. With this quickened interest will come new knowledge, followed by new

enthusiasm. Someone has aptly stated that riches lie not in what one possesses but in what one appreciates. Alabama is rich in the things of beauty; its birds life is unsurpassed when considered the year-round from north to south. With improved farming, increased forest areas, impounded waterways, and numerous ponds, thus increasing the types of habitats, there have been many changes in the bird population and no doubt the number of species. The future of the A.O.S. in Alabama looks bright, filled with the fun of adventure and discovery. But best of all, the deep peace of the woods, the joy in the simple things, the unsurpassed music of bird songs, the inspiration of rich friendships, the sharing of new and old experiences as this organization grows in deeper appreciation of the beauty of the avian wealth which lies in Alabama. There are great days ahead. Your president is happy to be a part of this organization. With your cooperation and continued support, the Alabama Ornithological Society will move forward in the state and find a place of influence and service.