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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I should like to welcome all of you to what we hope will be another fine year for observing and learning about the many birds that Alabama is fortunate to have as breeders, migrants or winter visitors. Fall migration is now in progress, and there have already been many interesting reports. As noted by many of our past presidents, you will enjoy our wildlife heritage more through greater participation in ornithological and conservation activities. To suggest only a few, I am sure you will find it both enjoyable and worthwhile to attend the meetings and field trips of AOS and its affiliated local groups, to attend the wildlife film series that feature lecturers from the National Audubon Society, to participate in the seasonal bird counts, to encourage our birds by erecting bird houses, feeders and bird baths, and to interest others -- both old and young alike -- in the many wonders of nature and the need for their conservation.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of those who participated in the breeding bird survey this past summer. I believe Alabama can be proud of its response in staffing forty survey routes located throughout the state. In addition to the breeding bird survey and the now well-established Christmas bird counts, the Society last winter adopted the conducting of fall and spring migration counts as part of its program of surveying the distribution of birds in our state. The fall migration season is now upon us and, pursuant to the resolution adopted last winter, the fall migration counts are to be conducted during the month of October using the same circles of 15-mile diameter used in the Christmas counts. Selection of specific dates has been left to the various groups conducting the counts. Let me strongly urge each of our local groups to conduct such a count, for only in that way will we be able to collect adequate information on the distribution and abundance of our fall birds and to note changes in their populations in future years. All data, including both total species and number of each observed, should be reported to the editor of Alabama Birdlife.

I believe all of us have had occasion to know someone who is interested in wildlife or conservation and who would like to know more about the birds of our state, participate in the activities of the Society and receive its publications. Our Society can become a stronger organization through expansion of its membership, so let me ask each one of you during this coming year to interest at least one additional person in joining the Society. You will be doing both the member and the Society a favor. Application for membership and the appropriate dues may be forwarded directly to the Treasurer, and for your convenience an application blank will be attached at the end of the next edition of the Newsletter.

It is indeed a pleasure and honor to be serving as your president this year, and I appreciate the cooperation given by so many of the members of the Society. We shall all be looking forward to seeing all of you at our coming meetings.

Robert R. Reid, Jr.