

May, 1969

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With this, my last message as President of the AOS, I would like to express my appreciation to all who have helped to make this a very memorable year in my life. It has been a lot of fun, and a lot of work, but I have learned a great deal and it truly has been a wonderful experience.

In looking back to some of the goals that I had at the beginning of the year, I see that we have at least gotten a start on most of them:

We have had two very fruitful meetings of the Slide Collection Committee, at which time 262 slides representing 136 different species were selected. Of this number 122 slides are in the Educational Set which will be loaned to responsible persons to help them teach children or give programs to promote interest in birds. At present, 140 slides are in the Scientific Set which were all taken in Alabama, and will be kept to substantiate the presence of the bird in the state. This is especially advisable in such cases as the Red Phalarope, Scarlet Ibis, or other unusual birds seen in the state, making it unnecessary to collect the bird. Some nests, eggs and or young were also included in this set to verify breeding in the state. We hope to add many more slides to each set, as good slides are available. A list of the species that we have selected will be published in the Newsletter so that you can check your files for any additional species you may have to add to our collection.

Secondly, with this issue of Alabama Birdlife, we are reinstating Regional Wingbeats which will become known as the Seasons. I think you will find this helpful and very interesting. This is a very good way for our members in different parts of the state to learn what is being seen in other areas and when. It is also a good way for all of our members to participate in the organization.

As for membership this year, we have gained some and lost some, but our attendance at the meetings has been very good. This is encouraging. We are hopeful that our attendance at our annual spring meeting on Dauphin Island this year will be the largest ever.

Looking forward to the coming year, I know you will give our new officers the same fine cooperation that you have given me. Again many thanks.

Helen Kittinger