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## No. 3-4

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Into the Forests

The winter meeting in Conecuh National Forest, at Oakwood Lodge beside Blue Lake, brought new knowledge of what is happening to our National Forests. From competent outdoor people and from personal observation we learned that Conecuh Forest is fast succumbing to the increased traffic which a good outdoor area is sure to bring, and the ravages of timber management as it is practiced in our national forests. While our meeting was good, resulting in some wonderful birding and excellent fellowship and constructive thinking, there was the sad note of ever encroaching civilization upon the domain of the wild creatures we all love, and which civilization needs so badly.

All of these things brought into sharper focus the need for setting aside areas that cannot be disturbed. Thankfully, our Society began definite plans in this direction at our fall meeting in Birmingham. There Dan Holliman and Thomas Imhof were appointed to head a committee to make an ornithological survey of selected "cut" and "uncut" areas in Bankhead National Forest. With much work by many AOS members, particularly the indefatigible Tom Imhof and Jim Manasco, a true man-of-the-Bankhead, a wonderful start has been made. (A full report of this work will be a feature of our April 24-26 meeting at Dauphin Island.) Probably the best momentary estimate is the fact that Birmingham papers have editorialized favorably for our efforts to secure undisturbed natural areas; and some of the forestry people have written letters protesting we are a pressure group without knowledge—just busybodies.

With the work of all of our members, we will be in a position to help protect our natural resources and preserve a part of our natural heritage. See you-all at Dauphin.

Cordially,

Walter F. Coxe, President