

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A.O.S. congratulates Dr. Wilson Gaillard who has organized the first A.O.S. Chapter in Mobile. A future hope is that there will be more chapters over the state. Of important news also is the addition of so many new members, many of which are Mobilians.

At the fall business meeting on Dauphin Island, A. O. S. voted to request that the Alabama State Department of Conservation provide protection for nesting shorebirds, waterbirds, and for other waterfowl on Coffee, Cat, and Marsh Islands during the nesting season from March 1 to August 31. This endorsement was sent by your president on November 8, to the Director of the Alabama Department of Conservation. A reply was received November 14, stating that generally the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service assumed the responsibility for such issues. Further groundwork toward securing protection for these islands during the nesting season will be required.

The committee on constitutional changes will report in a written notice to the membership thirty days prior to the spring meeting. The present constitution can be found in Vol. III, 1955 No. 1 & 2 of Alabama Birdlife. If you have any suggestions, please address them to the chairman, Miss Clustie McTyeire, 1804 Arlington Avenue, Bessemer, Alabama.

The spring meeting will be in the Birmingham area, with a tentative date of April 28, 29, 1962. Keep this date open on your calendar.

The fine cooperation and response of members has been a welcome experience.

--HARRIETT WRIGHT

(Ed. note)--As we go to press we learn with deep regret that Dr. Wright has suffered a heart attack while on vacation in Florida. He is now at the Baptist Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida. We are all hoping to welcome the Wrights back to Birmingham by about the middle of January.

DAUPHIN ISLAND MEETING

The Alabama Ornithological Society held its semi-annual meeting at Dauphin Island on October 28 and 29, 1961. Thirty registered on Saturday morning, and 45 participated during the 2-day period. Fourteen new members joined.

The business meeting was held Saturday, after a dinner at the Marina. The President, Mrs. D. O. Wright, presided. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report announced a balance of \$74.54, and a membership total of 110. Dues for 1962 are due.

Dr. Gaillard discussed a proposed bird sanctuary on Coffee, Cat, and Marsh Islands to protect birds during the nesting season. He made a motion that the society go on record as favoring the move to set aside these three islands in the Mississippi Sound between Dauphin and the mainland as bird sanctuaries with no trespassing signs to prevent disturbing the birds during their nesting season. Blanche E. Dean seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

The President was requested to write the State Conservation Department in regard to this motion. The text of this letter is with the original minutes.

Clustie McTyeire, chairman of the committee to study the constitution, reported on the work of the committee, discussed some of the recommendations for changes, but advised that the study had not yet been completed. Proposed revisions will be submitted to the membership in writing before the Spring meeting.

The President announced that with the treasury so low, Alabama Birdlife would have to be published in some other way, which was to be left to the discretion of the editor.

The President stated that the spring meeting will be in Birmingham the last of April or the first of May. She appointed the following committee: Jim Keeler, Chairman, Blanche Chapman, and Julian Dusi.

Julian Dusi proposed that Dr. Henry Good be made an honorary member of the Society. His motion was seconded by Dr. Wright, and unanimously carried.

There was a discussion of the advisability of having a winter business meeting, probably in Birmingham or Montgomery, so there would be less business at the spring and fall meetings. No action was taken.

The President reported that Dr. Gaillard has organized an A. O. S. Chapter in Mobile.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the home of J. W. Dewberry, where Jim Keeler presented the program--two excellent films, "The Life Cycle of the Dove", and "The Whooping Crane".

The meeting was concluded on Sunday by compiling a list of birds seen during the weekend. A total of 98 species was recorded.

Respectfully submitted,
MARGARETTE PERSONS, Sec.

DR. HENRY G. GOOD NEW HONORARY MEMBER

Dr. Henry G. Good, Professor of Zoology-Entomology at Auburn University and Charter Member of the A. O. S., was elected to Honorary Membership in the Society at the recent meeting at Dauphin Island.

Honorary membership is reserved for those whom the Executive Board and the Membership deem eminent in the field of ornithology. It was felt that Dr. Good has achieved eminence through his service in the past 36 years of teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in ornithology at Auburn. Many biologists in Alabama, for example, Tom Atkeson, Walter Rosene, Ren Thrasher, James Davis, and Walter Bashears, learned their first ornithology from Dr. Good. In addition, he has willingly given much time and talent to lectures to interested groups, for a long time being the ornithological authority throughout much of Alabama.

We, therefore rejoice and welcome him to his new status in the Alabama Ornithological Society.

--JULIAN DUSI

SAW-WHET OWL AT BROWNSBORO

Most of our wintering birds learn quickly to avoid our netting areas if the nets are in use for several days. Therefore we have been putting nets up after dark, making one run early the next morning, then furling the nets and waiting a few days to use them again. On the morning of November 10, we found we had fooled 23 birds which had flown into 3 nets. We had been discussing our not having caught a Screech Owl for a long time, so in the rush to get all the birds from the net, we took a small owl and hurriedly placed it in the gathering box without examining. We laughed about the coincidence of having caught a Screech Owl after saying what we had.

When we took out the owl to band it, we suddenly realized it had no "ears", had the wrong markings, was not the right colors to be a Screech Owl, and was not scratching and pecking as have the other Screech Owls we have caught. It was not a Screech Owl! Our books showed that we had caught an adult Saw-whet Owl. As Peterson says in A Field Guide to the Birds, it is "a tiny, absurdly tame little owl." It seemed to enjoy being handled and didn't seem to object to our taking flash pictures for color slides. (We have learned that Saw-whets are sometimes caught by hand or with butterfly nets).

We were unable to learn much, before this report, of its occurrence in the Gulf states. The field guides say the Saw-whet Owl breeds south to northern Indiana and the mountains of West Virginia, and winters south to Virginia and Louisiana. We know it breeds in the Smoky Mountains around Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and learned from Demett Smith, of Huntsville, that there are records for Memphis, Elizabethton, and perhaps a few other places in Tennessee. We should appreciate any information anyone might be able to furnish us concerning the Saw-whet, and records of its appearance in Alabama or neighboring states.

--JIM AND MARGARET ROBINSON

We welcome to our official staff Mr. F. Bozeman Daniel, as librarian. His address is 4320 5th Avenue, South, Birmingham, Alabama.