

NEW BOOKS BY A.O.S. PAST PRESIDENTS

All A. O. S. members are filled with pride because of the accomplishments of three of its past presidents.

Oliver L. Austin, noted ornithologist, now of the Department of Natural Science at the University of Florida, has been five years in producing "Birds of the World." It is a huge spectacular presentation on words and gorgeous pictures. At least one species of every bird family in the world is shown, as well as most of the currently recognized sub-families.

"Trees and Shrubs in the Heart of Dixie" by Mrs. Blanche Dean describes 525 species, mostly wild ones. There are 366 drawings of leaves, flowers and fruits, 167 photographs, and 32 color plates. The book is fully indexed. It meets the needs of all organizations and individuals interested in nature's gifts to us.

The book will be shown at an autographing tea for Mrs. Dean at Smith & Hardwick Book Store, on December 15, 2:30-8.

Thomas A. Imhof's book "Alabama Birds," does for Alabama what Dr. Austin has done for the world. It is the most authoritative book on Alabama birds published since 1928. Text descriptions reflect with expertness the knowledge of birds gained over a study of 28 years. Mr. Imhof, for years, has served as a clearing house for ornithologists seeking information on Alabama birds.

The illustrations by David C. Hulse and Richard C. Parks produce some of the most exact reproductions of Alabama birds in existence in the Southeast. Soon to be off the press.

Congratulations to Oliver Austin, Blanche Dean, Tom Imhof and to all A. O. S. members who value these wonderful students of nature.

--EMMIE BROWNLIE

BANDED WILLETT RECOVERED

Of three Willets which I banded on Dauphin Island July 22, 1961, one was killed on September 19 at Corentyne, British Guiana. Occasional recoveries like this really encourage

MOTTLED DUCK

May 16, 1960, on Dauphin Island, was a hot, humid spring day. The sky was bright blue, with large white clouds drifting over lazily from the Gulf. Caspian and Royal Terns courted high overhead, noisily pursuing one another, wheeling and careening in wild aerial maneuvers, setting their wings, then planing through the air like white jets. Laughing Gulls flew slowly, deliberately over the Island, squawking. Least Terns winged gracefully, like swallows, over the water's edge, hovered momentarily, then dropping like a dart into a wave rose quickly with a silver minnow.

As I waded through the marsh on the west end of the Island, Red-winged Blackbirds hovered overhead and scolded harshly. Seaside Sparrows fluttered from the tall grass, flew on buzzy wings a short distance and dropped back into the marsh, or lit, balancing precariously on a grass stem and peered at me inquisitively. Clapper Rails scurried from mud flats into hiding.

Suddenly, about fifteen feet away, a large dark bird flushed clumsily from the thick grass with a loud clapping of wings and flew out heavily over the marsh. It gained altitude, turned slowly, and winged aimlessly over the bay until it became only a tiny dot on the horizon, then disappeared. This was the reward for my efforts, the object of my search, a Mottled Duck.

Upon investigation, I discovered a well-concealed nest, tucked away in the dense Spartina and sheltered above by a heavy arch of this grass. The nest, a low neat mound of fine bits of grass, lined with the bird's down, contained eight pale, bluish-green eggs, slightly incubated. It was located on a dry point formed by a small meandering tidal stream that drained into a pool near the bay, only 20 yards away.

I took pictures of the nest and collected two eggs. This was the first nest ever recorded for this species in Alabama. The following day, the parent bird had resumed incubating and I resumed my search for more nesting species on Dauphin.

CHARLES W. SUMMEROUR, III
1621 Bush Blvd., B'ham, Ala.