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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As I see it, we members of the Alabama Ornithological Society have an opportunity to make worthwhile contributions to ornithology during the next few months.

This opportunity can be realized by either cooperating with the North American Nest-Record Program or by participating in the Breeding Bird Survey. The nest-record program requires no real skill and very little effort. The desire to do something constructive for ornithology is about the only requirement. All of us should cooperate with this program. The Breeding Bird Survey requires some skill, especially the ability to accurately identify bird songs. It also requires a considerable sacrifice in time and effort. We should participate in this survey if asked.

The North American Nest-Record Program is administered by the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology. It is being coordinated in this State by Dr. Julian L. Dusi, Box 742, Auburn. Records were made last year of only 200 active nests. There should have been many more. Cards for making the nest records can be obtained from Dr. Dusi. They are very simple, pocket-sized cards with easy to follow instructions. All of us should help with this important work during the current nesting season.

As you know, the Society has been concerned for a number of years about the lack of information on our resident, summer breeders. During the past two years, many of us have made summer counts at various localities within the State. These counts provide good local information, but they are not extensive. Only a small portion of the State is covered by these counts. The Breeding Bird Survey is designed to get information on breeding birds from all sections of the State. The survey is getting under way this summer. It is being coordinated by Mr. Tom Imhof, 1036 Pike Road, Birmingham.

Routes for making the survey have been picked at random. Each route consists of 50 three-minute stops spaced at one-half mile intervals. All birds heard during the three-minute period will be recorded and all seen within one-fourth mile of the observer will be recorded. Starting time for running the routes is one-half hour before official sunrise. It will take about four hours to complete each route. Observers should thoroughly familiarize themselves with the routes before actually making the surveys.

The survey will provide an index of the breeding-bird population and not an actual measure of abundance. Its greatest value will be realized in future years when repeated coverage may reveal significant increases or decreases in the breeding populations of individual species.

Tom will not ask us to help him with this survey unless he really needs our help. If he should ask us, let's be willing to cooperate to the fullest in this.

Robert E. Waters