

MINUTES OF WINTER MEETING
ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FEBRUARY 12-13, 1966

The regular winter meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society hosted by The Chattahoochee Valley Natural History Club was held at the Holiday Inn in Eufaula, Alabama, on February 12-13, 1966 with 37 members and guests registered. Field trips were conducted Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning to the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge by Refuge Director John R. Eadie and Assistants A. H. Saville and Richard Bolt -- the highlight being the sighting of an immature Whistling Swan which had been on the Refuge sixteen weeks at that time among the many water and shore birds. The banquet and program were held Saturday night, the Executive Council meeting Sunday noon at Holiday Inn.

Saturday Night Program

Following the banquet February 12 at Holiday Inn, Mr. Eadie gave the program illustrated with beautiful color slides about the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge explaining its objectives, achievements, plans and problems. It was most enlightening to see how habitats were being created to attract wildlife particularly ducks and geese in large numbers. The banquet and program were thoroughly enjoyed by all members and guests.

Following the program an informal showing of slides by Mrs. J.C. (Maragret) Robinson was enjoyed.

Field Trips

On Sunday morning after the field trips of Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning Fairly Chandler conducted a compiling session in which 82 species were recorded for the area. The immature Whistling Swan was seen well by all with binoculars and telescopes and photographed by Dr. Maurice F. Baker. A list of birds seen in the area is attached.

Meeting of Executive Council

The Executive Council met at 12:15 P.M. at Holiday Inn in Eufaula, Alabama. Those present were: Mr. Robert E. Waters, President; Mr. Robert R. Reid, Jr., Vice-President; Dr. Dan C. Holliman, Immediate Past President; Dr. Maurice F. Baker, Editor Alabama Birdlife; and Mr. Fairly Chandler, Secretary. The following committees were appointed by the President:

Nominating Committee - Dr. Dan C. Holliman, Chairman
Blanche H. Chapman
Mrs. Will G. Caffee

Auditing Committee - Julian W. Johnson, Chairman
James E. Keeler

Plans for the annual spring meeting to be held at Dauphin Island on April 22-24, 1966 were discussed.

Discussion was had of the policy of the Society of fostering the taking of seasonal bird counts and of conducting the breeding bird count using the procedure employed in Maryland and Delaware last year. The following resolution was then, upon motion duly made and seconded, unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Council of the Alabama Ornithological Society as follows:

(1) The taking of seasonal counts of bird populations in Alabama is hereby adopted and approved as an official project and program to be followed by this Society, such counts to consist of the Christmas bird count conducted during the Christmas season, a breeding bird survey to be conducted during the month of June, and spring and fall migration counts, the former to be conducted during the last part of April or first part of May and the latter to be conducted during the month of October.

(2) The breeding bird survey shall be conducted according to the procedure established by, and in cooperation with, the Migratory Bird Populations Station of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Laurel, Maryland, i.e. by statistically controlled observations along approximately 25-mile routes selected at random in each block of 1° longitude and 1° latitude throughout the state.

(3) The other three seasonal counts shall be conducted in the manner employed by the National Audubon Society for the Christmas bird counts, i.e. observations by field parties in a circle of 15-mile diameter centered at a point in the locality where the count is being taken.

(4) All local groups interested in compiling ornithological data are strongly urged to conduct and participate in as many of such counts as possible, and the officers of this Society and each of its affiliated groups are hereby authorized and requested to take all action necessary or appropriate toward the conduct of such counts, the results of which, to the extent possible, shall be published in the scientific journal of this Society, Alabama Birdlife.

Discussion was then had of the need for an appropriation of funds for development of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge so that the fine work now being carried on at the refuge might proceed forward. The following resolution was then, upon motion duly made and seconded, unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, being situated on the shores of the Walter F. George Reservoir in the Chattahoochee River Valley on the boundary of the States of Alabama and Georgia and being midway between the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways for waterfowl, has great potential for waterfowl management and recreational facilities;

WHEREAS, there are no other wildlife refuges in the Chattahoochee River Valley watershed;

WHEREAS, development of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge is needed for conservation of the species of wildlife, including migratory waterfowl and resident water and land birds and animals, that formerly migrated through and resided in large numbers in that valley;

WHEREAS, such development through its cooperative farming program, recreational facilities and other related activities will substantially benefit the economy of the region;

WHEREAS, the refuge is presently operating only on funds available for current expenses and no appropriations have been made for its development; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Alabama Ornithological Society are familiar with the area in which the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge is located and the need for developing a wildlife refuge in that area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Council of the Alabama Ornithological Society, at its mid-winter meeting held on February 13, 1966, that this Society does strongly urge and recommend that the Congress make a special appropriation for the development of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge and that, in evidence of its opinion as to the desirability of and need for such an appropriation, the Secretary of this Society be directed to send copies of this resolution to each of the United States Senators and Representatives from the States of Alabama and Georgia.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and approved the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

List of birds observed February 12-13, 1966 in area of Eufaula and Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge at Winter Meeting of Alabama Ornithological Society:

Grebes - Pied-billed Grebe,

Hérons, Bitterns and Allies - Great Blue Heron, Common Egret, Snowy Egret,

Swans, Geese and Ducks - Whistling Swan, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead,

Vultures, Hawks, and Falcons - Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk,

Quails - Bobwhite,

Coots - American Coot,

Shorebirds, Gulls, and Allies - Killdeer, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull,

Doves - Mourning Dove, Ground Dove,

Kingfishers - Belted Kingfisher,

Woodpeckers - Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker,

Tyrant Flycatchers - Eastern Phoebe,

Swallows - Purple Martin,

Jays and Crows - Blue Jay, Common Crow,

Titmice - Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse,

Nuthatches - Brown-headed Nuthatch,

Wrens - House Wren, Carolina Wren,

Mockingbirds and Thrashers - Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher,

Thrushes - Robin, Eastern Bluebird,

Gnatcatchers and Kinglets - Ruby-crowned Kinglet,

Pipits - Water Pipit,

Waxwings - Cedar Waxwing,

Shrikes - Loggerhead Shrike,

Starlings - Starling,

Warblers - Orange-crowned Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler,

Weaver Finches - House Sparrow,

Meadowlarks and Blackbirds - Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird,

Finches and Sparrows - Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Observed after the compilation but in the Eufaula area:

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet.

Fairly Chandler, Secretary