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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I wish to express my appreciation for the great honor of being president of our organization for the coming year and I intend to uphold the tradition of our past presidents in contributing to the continued progress and success of the AOS.

I have been a member of the Society for some nine years and I have witnessed a steady growth in membership and stature. The mounting list of contributions of AOS and its members to the science of ornithology and to the cause of conservation should be a great source of pride for all of us.

In the past few years there have been signs of an awakening in the minds of many people to the fact that our natural resources are worthwhile and, perhaps, worth saving, even at the risk of some economic loss. I feel that this heartening trend has come about largely because of the efforts of organizations such as ours and the individual efforts of the members.

Some will question our involvement because they might expect an Ornithological Society to watch and study birds, gather data, and do nothing more. But a group such as ours is not made up of detached seekers of information only; most of us love the creatures we enjoy studying and observing, and we will not sit on the sidelines and allow their decimation or extinction without doing whatever we can to prevent it.

These are my feelings about AOS and conservation, but lest you get the impression that I advocate abandonment of all other aspects of the Society that we may go into fulltime conservation work, I assure you it is not true.

I should like to see greater participation by all our members in AOS activities. Each of us should support his Regional Director by furnishing information for the Newsletter. I should like to see more data sent to the Editor of ALABAMA BIRDLIFE.

I look forward to a much improved Breeding Bird Survey program this year through greater participation of our members. With all the competent observers we have throughout the state, one or two people should not have to run three or four survey routes.

Another activity which I feel whould be supported fully is the Nesting Survey being promoted by Dr. Julian Dusi.

In addition, I have a pet project. I should like very much to see the beginning of a systematic, statewide birdbanding program which could be used, eventually, to determine yearly migration and resident status of most areas of the state.

I was very happy to see all our members and guests at our spring meeting which must have been the greatest ever, and I look forward to a year of continuing growth and accomplishment of AOS.

James C. Robinson