

September - December, 1967

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The President's Page.	32
A Preliminary Food Study of Red-winged Blackbird Nestlings, <u>Agelaius phoeniceus</u> , at Robert's Field, Jefferson County, Alabama. Dan. C. Holliman.	33
The 1967 Birmingham Migration Counts. Robert R. Reid, Jr.	37
General Notes:	
Avocet Record. Robert W. Skinner.	40
White-winged Scoter Record. Robert W. Skinner	40
Long-billed Curlew Record. Robert W. Skinner.	40
Minutes of the Fall Meeting, Alabama Ornithological Society, October 13 - 15, 1967.	41

COVER by Barbara Flindt

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Published periodically by the Alabama Ornithological Society at Auburn, Alabama 36830. It is sent to all members, or it may be obtained by subscription in the United States for \$2.00 per year or \$.75 per issue.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

At our fall meeting in Florence, Mr. Archie Hooper, Alabama Department of Conservation, delivered one of the most important talks that we have been privileged to hear. In straight-forward terms, we were told of a great threat to our important resource, water. We learned that the forces of conservation have lost the battle to improve and preserve the water quality of Alabama streams. The remaining hope is that our national legislators will require the Department of the Interior to reconsider its acceptance of the recommendation of the Alabama Water Improvement Commission. All A. O. S. members are urged to write their congressmen and ask for help in preventing acceptance of an unsatisfactory water improvement policy for our state.

One of the most difficult ideas for pure conservationists (those who view conservation as an end in itself, not necessarily related to economics or recreation) to accept is that we deal in the most part with people who can see no worth in anything which cannot be labeled with a price tag. This springs not from a malicious and callous nature but as a natural consequence of almost 200 years of accepted and invited exploitation of our seemingly endless wealth and resources.

There has been a recent show of concern by some citizens but it has not accomplished immediate and massive reform. It might have caused some of the spoilers to accelerate their efforts to "get while the getting is good", before real curbs are imposed.

Restrictive legislation adopted because of the outcries of a minority will never accomplish what we all want. There must be a genuine desire and feeling of need among our citizens before the aims of the conservationist can be realized. Also, we must accept the fact that all conservators do not look at the situation with the same goals and sense of urgency. We all seem to be members of some special interest group. Whatever our special interest, we are no more purely motivated than the "multiple usage" forester or the humanitarian mayor who chooses a new paper mill over a clean river through his town, out of regard for the economic improvement of his townspeople.

The point is that no majority can be assembled with a common viewpoint, sympathetic to any one conservationists views, whatever his special interest. This means that simultaneously we must legislate, educate and compromise if we are to gain any measure of our goals of conserving just for the sake of retaining some of our natural heritage in its natural state, for the benefit of all.

We must take an active part in political activities, attend meetings, write our legislators, making ourselves heard in all ways which will help to get protective legislation. We must teach our children, inform and influence our neighbors and actively gain the support of our fellow citizens. We must combine our efforts with those of others who want to achieve any part of the same goals we seek. Often we must accept less than our ideal but never become discouraged. If we don't take an active part in trying to preserve our natural resources, who will?

James C. Robinson