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ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is indeed a great honor to be serving as president of such a fine organization as AOS. I hope that each of you will help me make this as rewarding an experience for every one of our members as the past officers have made it for me.

Even though I have been interested in birds and nature all of my life, I learned of AOS and became a member just four years ago. In that short time, I have learned much more about birds, netting, banding, surveys, etc.; have met many wonderful people from all over Alabama and the adjoining states and have birded in many interesting areas that might never have been known to me had it not been for our meetings.

It became very apparent to me, that the more actively I participated in the programs of the organization, whether it was breeding surveys, nest records, giving papers, attending meetings, or contributing to the publications; the more interesting it became and the more satisfaction I derived from it.

This year, one of the activities that I would especially like to see get a good start is the slide collection of all the birds that have been seen in our state. We will have two sets of slides. One will be a permanent record of the occurrence of each species, making it unnecessary to collect the bird and the other set of slides will be used for educational purposes.

Another thing that I would like to see this year is a section, "Regional Wingbeats", or the equivalent returned to Alabama Birdlife. Many members have expressed this desire to me also. I think this addition would improve our publication and make it more interesting reading for us non-professional birders. It would also help Mr. Imhof to report more of our records to Audubon Fieldnotes.

There are many more interesting and worthwhile projects we may undertake during the coming year. For instance, how about a membership drive? If each member would be responsible for getting just ONE more member, or giving an interested friend a membership in AOS for Christmas.

Whatever activities we decide to undertake, let us all work together to make this a wonderful year for learning, protecting, and enjoying the birds.

Helen Kittinger

EVIDENCE FOR THE BREEDING OF THE WOOD STORK IN ALABAMA, 1968

Julian L. Dusi and Rosemary T. Dusi

In our heron studies we have made much use of aerial reconnaissance to locate nesting colonies, estimate population density and study migrations and dispersals.

For the past several years we have seen a few Little Blue Herons, *Florida caerulea*, and Cattle Egrets, *Bubulcus ibis*, in the area west of Tuskegee, Macon County. This year in a study of the ecologic impacts of wading birds on the aquatic environment, supported by the Alabama Water Resources Institute, we decided to search the area west of Tuskegee for colonies. On June 20, we spotted a large swamp several miles southwest of Hardaway, Macon County (Fig. 1).

Circling over the swamp was a large group of Black Vultures, *Coragyps atratus*; about 50 Cattle Egrets were feeding with some cattle at the eastern edge of the swamp; and at least a dozen white birds perched in a large cypress snag beside several Black Vultures. Rosemary suggested that these were none of the usual wading birds with which we are well acquainted because they did not flush when we approached but would partially spread their wings. After several passes we determined that they were Wood Storks, *Mycteria americana*. This seemed odd because the Wood Storks we have seen in the past were not present until late summer. Therefore we determined to look for them from the ground and investigate the possibilities that they had nested in the swamp.

On June 28, before we could return to the Hardaway swamp, we flew our usual population transect from Auburn to Demopolis. Just north of Benton, Montgomery County, we found a swamp containing at least 40 Wood Storks. No nests could be seen in the trees.

It was not until July 23, that we were able to reach the Hardaway swamp, on the ground and with a boat and suitable cameras. The swamp was about two feet lower than usual and thus was full of exposed logs and the passage through it was extremely difficult. It was necessary for me to wade and pull the boat and its contents over the logs to the location of the roosting snag. When we got to the snag, there was no doubt that nests were present. We counted four in adjacent trees and several Wood Storks stood by individual nests suggesting ownership (Fig. 2). We photographed both birds and nests in color and black and white.

None of the sourcebooks of Wood Stork distribution (Bent, 1926; Palmer, 1962; Imhof, 1962; or the A.O.U. Checklist, 1957) contain any indication that Wood Storks breed in Alabama but that they disperse through the area. Our data indicate that the birds were present in Alabama in these two places in the 1968 breeding season, that nests were present in the Hardaway swamp but no eggs or very young nestlings were seen or photographed. Whether older immatures were present remains to be determined from the color transparencies. Therefore, lacking a specimen for absolute proof of breeding, we have alternate evidence to indicate that they nested in Alabama in 1968.



Figure 1. The colony area swamp, southwest of Hardaway, Macon County



Figure 2. One of the Wood Storks and its nest

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 Worley, Mrs. Shelby L., 411 Martin Street, Scottsboro 35768
 Wright, Dr. & Mrs. D. O., 2749 Millbrook Road, Birmingham 35202
 Wynne, Mr. & Mrs. William J., 2513 (#217) Bob Wallace, S. W.,
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ADDENDUM

(New Members and Changes of Addresses)

Galloway, Mr. Thomas M., 32 Ashley Drive, Mobile 36608
 Garlinghouse, Mr. Kay, 1183-C Claymore Drive, Marietta, Ga. 30060
 Grabe, Mrs. Don, Box 5267, State College, Mississippi 39762
 Green, Mr. Joe T., P. O. Box 117, Dauphin Island 36528
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 Petronas, Dennis, Dauphin Island 36528
 Pierre, Miss H. Jean, Dauphin Island 36528
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 Banks, Mrs. Naomi, 2116 Brookview Drive, Birmingham 35226
 Cernicek, Mrs. Helga, 4541 Avron Blvd., Metairie, Louisiana 70002

See BACK

MINUTES OF SPRING MEETING ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY APRIL 19-21, 1968

The fifteenth annual spring meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was held at Dauphin Island, Alabama, on April 19-21, 1968.

Meeting of the Executive Council

The Executive Council met at 10:15 A. M. on Saturday, April 20, at LeMoyne Restaurant. The following members were present: Helen H. Kittinger, Vice-President and President-Elect; Louise N. McKinstry, Treasurer; Elberta G. Reid, Secretary; Robert R. Reid, Jr., Immediate Past President; Julian L. Dusi, Editor of Alabama Birdlife, Librarian, and Director; Rosemary T. Dusi, P. Fairly Chandler, Robert W. Skinner, William J. Calvert, Jr., M. Wilson Gaillard, and Thomas A. Imhof, Directors.

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive Council were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report for 4/21/67 - 4/20/68 was submitted and approved, and a copy is attached to these minutes. Income for the period totaled \$726.50, expenditures were \$481.09, and balance in the checking account as of 4/20/68 was \$808.09.

Dr. Dusi and Mr. Chandler, members of the Auditing Committee, reported that the books were in excellent order and in agreement with the Treasurer's report.

On a motion, duly made and seconded, the council voted to print a membership list in Alabama Birdlife every other year.

Dr. Dusi reported on the status of the library and of Alabama Birdlife. He was authorized by the council to increase the printing of Birdlife from 300 to 350 copies and to check on the price of reprinting those back issues which we no longer have available for distribution. Mr. Skinner will investigate the price of reprinting such issues by the Department of Conservation.

Dr. Gaillard reported on activities in the Gulf Coast area. The Secretary was instructed to write Mr. Ben Buerger a letter of thanks for free use of the community building for our Friday night meeting.

The council discussed the possibility of inviting the Inland Bird Banding Association and the Wilson Society to hold meetings on Dauphin Island with the AOS acting as hosts. It was agreed that summer months would be inappropriate due to the overflow of tourists and the scarcity of birds. Mr. Imhof offered to contact the Wilson Society, and Mr. Reid will pursue his contact with IBBA with the thought that Birmingham would probably be a more suitable site for their type of meeting.

Mr. Skinner's report on the coastal plains area included a record of nesting Pied-billed Grebes.

Dr. Calvert reported on the piedmont area and stated that the Jacksonville Bird Club had not held a meeting in over a year.

Mr. Reid submitted a set of slide collection rules which was the result of further study by the committee since the previous meeting. The council adopted those rules pertaining to the permanent set of slides and referred those rules pertaining to the duplicate educational set back to

the committee for additional study. The rules will be published after they have been adopted in final form. A flyer soliciting slides from members for the collection will be enclosed in the next issue of Alabama Birdlife.

President James C. Robinson submitted a written report of activities. The council agreed that it would be advisable to set up a Conservation Committee as suggested by Mr. Robinson, to be appointed by the incoming President.

Sites and dates for next year's meetings were discussed. The spring meeting on Dauphin Island will be held April 12-13. The sites for fall and winter meetings were tentatively set for Decatur and Marion.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Mrs. Dusi, Dr. Calvert, and Miss Blanche Chapman, presented the following slate: Vice-President and President-Elect, Mrs. Will G. Caffey of Mobile; Treasurer, Mrs. T. E. Hanks, Jr., of Mobile. The slate was unanimously accepted.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Business Meeting

A business meeting of the membership was held on the grounds of the Holiday House Apartments at 1:30 P. M. on Saturday, April 20. Vice-President and President-Elect Helen H. Kittinger presided. Ten members were present.

Reading of minutes of the previous meeting was dispensed with on motion duly made and seconded.

Dr. Julian L. Dusi, Chairman of the Auditing Committee, reported that he and Mr. P. Fairly Chandler had examined the books and found them to be in excellent order and in agreement with the Treasurer's report.

Report of the Nominating Committee was presented and accepted unanimously. Congratulations were extended to the new President, Helen H. Kittinger of Birmingham, and thanks were expressed to the outgoing President, Mr. James C. Robinson of Brownsboro, who was unable to attend the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,
Elberta G. Reid, Secretary

(Condensed from the proceedings by the Editor)

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded May 17, 1952

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President - Helen H. Kittinger, 1612 Colesbury Circle, Birmingham 35226

Vice President - Clara L. Caffey, 18 S. Julia Street, Mobile 36604

Treasurer - Sybil Hanks, 4152 LaRose Drive, Mobile 36609

Secretary - Idalene Snead, 845 S. 42nd Street, Birmingham 35222

Immediate Past President - James C. Robinson, Route 1, Box 91,
Brownsboro 35741

Editor, ALABAMA BIRDLIFE - Julian L. Dusi, P. O. Box 742, Auburn 36830

Editor, Newsletter - Eugene B. Sledge, Biology Department, Alabama
College, Montevallo 35115

Librarian - Julian L. Dusi, P. O. Box 742, Auburn 36830

Directors:

State-at-Large (Coordinator for Breeding Bird Survey) - Thomas A.
Imhof, 1036 Pike Road, Birmingham 35218

State-at-Large (Coordinator for North American Nest Record Program)
- Julian L. Dusi, P. O. Box 742, Auburn 36830

Gulf Coast Region -
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M. Wilson Gaillard, 3919 S. Sage Avenue, Mobile 36609

Coastal Plains Region -
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Piedmont and Eastern Mountains Region -
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Central Mountains Region -
Dan C. Holliman, Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham 35204
Harriett H. Wright, 2749 Millbrook Road, Birmingham 35204

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