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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