

News of AOS

"All sperm whales both large and small, have some method of communication by signals to each other, by which they become apprised of the approach of danger, and this they do, although the distance may be very considerable between them, sometimes amounting to four, five or even seven miles. The mode by which this is effected, remains a curious secret."

---Thomas Beale

DAUPHIN ISLAND '70 MEETING

The Spring meeting of A.O.S. at Dauphin Island attracted a large number of members and guests. A total of 150 people from as far away as Utah, Connecticut, and Massachusetts registered for an enjoyable week-end of good food, good fellowship and challenging birding.

Early arrivals to the 3-day meeting saw an excellent film on Friday night. This film, which shows and describes predators, has been purchased by B.A.S. for educational use in Alabama schools.

Days of birding at the shell mounds, the Audubon Sanctuary and on the shores of Dauphin Island are never long enough. Although the number and variety of migratory warblers was less than anticipated, there were interesting compensations for some of us, such as bobo-links, gannets and painted buntings.

A large and enthusiastic group of people enjoyed the traditional seafood dinner Saturday night at the Civic Building. The evening's program was highlighted by Bob Reid's paper on barn swallow nestings in Alabama. After seeing the slides made by Bob and his colleagues, one is tempted to stop and look under every bridge for nests. We're glad to hear that barn swallows are increasing their territory southward in this state. Helen Kittinger showed slides of Alabama birds from the A.O.S. film library. This collection comprises selections of the work of our expert photographers such as Helen, Harriett Wright, and Fairly Chandler.

Tom Imhof talked to A.O.S. members about the Bankhead National Forest, where the Alabama Conservancy has requested that 11,000 acres be set aside as wilderness under the Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964. Tom leads the A.O.S. team conducting an ornithological survey of the proposed wilderness area. Current "even-age" timber management policies in our National Forests will not leave suitable habitats for many of the birds and other wildlife. National Forests belong to everyone. Let's all support the Conservancy Wilderness Proposal!

A.O.S. members and especially the bird-banders among the group will want to attend the Inland Bird Banding Association meeting August 28-31 at Birmingham-Southern College. Registrants will be able to exchange information at paper sessions and workshops. There will be field trips to Lake Purdy, and to banding areas at Samford University and Thomas Creek, and a show at the planetarium.

Officers of A.O.S. for 1970-71 will be; Mr. Walter F. Coxe, President; Dr. Eugene Sledge, Vice-President; Mrs. T. E. Hanks, Treasurer; Miss Wilma Lindberg, Secretary; Dr. Dan Holliman, Alabama Birdlife Editor.

Next Year's Spring meeting is planned for April 22-25 when A.O.S. will meet with the Wilson Ornithological Society at Dauphin Island. Don't miss this one!

---Gussie Arnett

MINUTES OF SPRING MEETING

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
April 25 & 26, 1970
Dauphin Island

The regular spring meeting of AOS was held at Dauphin Island on the week-end of April 25 and 26. Field trips were conducted on Saturday and Sunday to the Shell Mounds, Causeway, west end, and the Bird Sanctuary. The compilation of the birds seen during the meeting was held in front of the Storey Apartments on Sunday morning by Fairly Chandler.

Executive Council Meeting

The Executive Council meeting was held at noon on Saturday at the Holiday Inn restaurant with the President, Walter Coxe, presiding. The following officers and directors were present: D. Holliman, F. Chandler, M. Gaillard, T. Imhof, S. Hanks, E. Sledge, J. Keeler and W. Lindberg; and R. Reid as special guest.

The minutes of the winter meeting were read and accepted.

The Treasurer, Sybil Hanks, submitted a report on the current finances which show a slight gain.