

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A proposed agreement with the Auburn University Library to permanently house Alabama Birdlife has been drawn up and presented. Dr. Julian Dusi of Auburn has done a fine job in drawing up this agreement. It follows closely the agreement of The Wilson Ornithological Society with the University of Michigan. Your A.O.S. President has accepted this agreement and we hope in the near future Auburn will accept it. I think this proposal will be a step in the right direction. All the journals, papers, etc. will be permanently housed and properly cared for. Since this year, 1962, marks the tenth anniversary of A.O.S., a ten-year index to Alabama Birdlife is also being prepared by our very competent Secretary, Rosemary Dusi. You will hear more details about this subject at a later date.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the officers of A.O.S. for their great interest and assistance. Margaret and Jim Robinson, Rosemary and Julian Dusi have been extra helpful.

Fall is just around the corner. Thinking of fall reminds me of Bird Migration then of Hawk Migration, next of the ill-advised "sportsman" who continues to indiscriminately shoot hawks in large numbers. Let's see if we can help educate people on the predator situation and on control when needed, rather than eradication.

Fall also reminds me of Dauphin Island and the large number of bird species that are going to be counted there this October 20 and 21 by members of the A.O.S.

I would like to remind Regional Directors and all others to please send in your material for publication in "Alabama Birdlife" to the Editor, Dr. M. W. Gaillard, 1508 Merchants National Bank Bldg., Mobile, Alabama. Material to be published in the "Newsletter" should be sent to Mr. Jim Robinson, Route 1, Box 91, Brownsboro, Alabama.

See you at Dauphin Island on October 20, 21.

R. W. Skinner

Conservation without money is just conversation.

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

EVENING GROSBEEKS IN BIRMINGHAM

On January 26, 1962 at 7:30 a.m. 7 Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) 4 male and 3 female, alighted on the bird feeder. No food had been placed on the feeder and immediately the Grosbeaks arose into the air. At noon on February 17, 5 Evening Grosbeaks, 2 male and 3 female, appeared at the feeder for about ten minutes eating sunflower seeds.

By March 1 there began to be a steady build-up of a flock that fed daily on sunflower seed at the feeder. On March 15, 22 Evening Grosbeaks could be seen at the feeder at one time. As high as 35 Evening Grosbeaks might be seen at one time on the feeder, and always there was constant interchange of birds. The flock with female predominating, might well have numbered around 200. In the trees 75 feet from the feeder 75 - 100 could be counted with the naked eye. The noise from their communicative notes was definite.

After April 27, the numbers began to diminish, and on April 27 the number at the feeder was 20. On May 5 only 5 Evening Grosbeaks were at the feeder and none were seen or heard thereafter.

Between March 15 and April 23, 52 Evening Grosbeaks, 38 females and 14 males, were banded on the right leg. At no time could more than 2 banded Evening Grosbeaks be seen, even when 35 fed at one time at the feeder. On April 1, a female Evening Grosbeak banded on the left leg appeared and could be seen intermittently the next two weeks. This bird could be a possible foreign retrap but preferred anonymity to entering a trap.

Harriett H. Wright

Interest in "Alabama Birds"

Keen public interest is being shown in Tom Imhof's great new book, "Alabama Birds". We are proud, not only of the author's excellent work, but also of the Department of Conservation's more attractive publication of it.

Tom Imhof will attend the Dauphin Island A.O.S. meeting October 20-21 and has agreed to autograph your volume if you wish.