

September - December, 1967

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COVER by Barbara Flindt

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

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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

A PRELIMINARY FOOD STUDY OF RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

NESTLINGS, Agelaius phoeniceus, AT ROBERT'S FIELD,

JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

Dan C. Holliman

This study represents a segment of an extensive research program under the direction of Dr. Gordon H. Orians, of the University of Washington, on the ecology of Red-winged Blackbirds, Agelaius phoeniceus, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus, during their breeding season. In an effort to observe both Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds in a wide range of environmental conditions, study areas were established in the humid belt west of the Cascade Mountains, the Sagebrush Deserts of Central Washington, the Ponderosa Pine Parklands of Eastern Washington, several areas in Southern British Columbia and one in Northcentral Alabama. In this Alabama study, attention was specifically directed to the food brought to the nestlings. Additional data were gathered relative to habitat composition and nestling activity during the study period, April 19 to June 15, 1964.

Financial support for this work was provided by a faculty research grant from Birmingham-Southern College and by funds from a National Science Foundation grant to Dr. Gordon H. Orians of the University of Washington, Department of Zoology, Seattle, Washington. I would like to thank Dr. Orians for the help I received in the identification of insect specimens and for his permission to use the data accumulated during the period of this research.

The Study Area

Early in 1964 a convenient study area was selected three miles from Birmingham-Southern College. Local banding and a bird population study (Snead, Idalene F., 1958. Resident Bird-Population of an Abandoned Airfield in Birmingham, Alabama. Unpublished M. A. Thesis, Birmingham-Southern College.) represents the only other work done on this abandoned airport. The field is located in the western section of the industrial center of Birmingham (Robert's Field: Section 32, T 17 S, R 3 W; elevation 535 feet; Birmingham Quadrangle). Geologically, it is situated in Opossum Valley, which is underlain by Ketona dolomite and faulted Pennsylvanian sandstone. Robert's field is nearly flat and gradually slopes upward towards the northeast. At the extreme southwest end of the field a five-acre marsh was formed by a natural sink area which collected and held surface water much of the year. Prior to the time of this writing the marsh had been destroyed by industrial expansion. This habitat supported a significant breeding population of Red-winged Blackbirds as well as other components of a viable marshland fauna.

The flora of the marsh was characterized by the following dominant representatives: Buttonbush, Cephalanthus occidentalis; Alder, Alnus sp.; Black Willow, Salix nigra; and Cat-tail, Typha latifolia. Plants growing in the fields that surrounded the marsh include the following:

Bermuda Grass, Cynodon dactylon; Little Barley, Hordeum pusillum; Tickle Grass, Panicum sp.; Meadow Fox-tail, Alopecurus pratensis; Broom-ledge, Andropogon virginicus; Needlegrass, Aristida sp.; Dallisgrass, Paspalum dilatatum; Crowfoot Grass, Dactyloctenium aegyptium; Rescue Grass, Bromus catharticus; White Clover, Trifolium repens; Red Clover, Trifolium pratense; Hop Clover, Trifolium agrarium; Sweet Clover, Melilotus sp.; Vetch, Vicia sp.; Bull Thistle, Carduus pumilum; Common Plantain, Plantago major; and Johnson-grass, Sorghum halepense.

Rainfall during the beginning of the study period was approximately 3.13 inches and decreased noticeably in occurrence by May 15. Temperature ranged during the day from 75 to 95 degrees and from 53 to 73 degrees at night. Cloud cover was variable, with many days hot and clear. During the middle of May the waterline of the marsh began receding and continued to do so until the marsh was completely devoid of water. It remained waterless throughout the remaining portion of the study period.

Sampling Procedures and Techniques

In late May and early April, breeding territories were mapped and nests located in the marsh and the surrounding fields. Daily checks were made to determine hatching dates and nesting progress. Food samples were then gathered by placing segments of pipe cleaners around the neck of nestlings 3 - 6 days old. These collars were fitted tightly enough to prevent the passage of food but loosely enough to permit breathing. Normally, neck bands were allowed to remain on the young birds one hour to one hour and 15 minutes. On the average, parents would bring food to the nestlings 5 - 6 times each hour. A bolus of food, composed of insect bodies, would accumulate during this time in the bottom of the buccal cavity. The insects were then collected with forceps and the band removed. This made it possible to collect food from a given nestling many times. Attempts were made to keep sampling periods one hour in duration and to distribute sampling throughout the day. However, no single nest was sampled more than twice in any given day. A single food sample consisted of the total amount of food taken from all of the nestlings of a single nest.

Results

Insect specimens contained in the food samples were identified as indicated in Table I. Some specimens were damaged by the parents so that Family determination was impossible and their presence was noted by using a question mark.

The resultant observational nesting data, that were compiled during the entire study period, are summarized and listed in Table II.

Discussion

Weather played an important role in this study. The loss of water in the marsh, due to scanty rainfall, apparently explains the scarcity of aquatic insects in the samples. An abundance of adult odonates was

Table I
Summary of Food Data

| Class | Order | Family | Number of Specimens | | | Total | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|----|
| | | | Larvae | Pupae | Adults | | |
| Insecta | Odonata | Libellulidae | | | 3 | 3 | |
| | | Orthoptera | Unidentified | 4 | | 2 | 6 |
| | | Homoptera | Cercopidae | 8 | | 10 | 27 |
| | | | Cidadellidae | | | 3 | |
| | | | Unidentified | 6 | | | |
| | | Lepidoptera | Noctuidae | 10 | | | 19 |
| | | | Geometridae | 2 | | | |
| | | | Unidentified | 1 | 3 | 3 | |
| | | Collembola | | | | 1 | 1 |
| | Arachnoidea | Araneida | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Gastropoda | Pulmonata | | | 2 | | 2 | |
| | | | Grand Total | | | 59 | |

Table II
Nesting Summary

| | |
|---|-----|
| Total number of nests located in the study area | 19 |
| Old nests (last year's nests) | 3 |
| Deserted nests | 4 |
| Nests destroyed by predators | 3 |
| Total number of eggs in all nests | 36 |
| Total number of eggs that did not hatch | 8 |
| Total number of nestlings observed in all nests | 27 |
| Average number of eggs per nest | 4.5 |
| Average number of nestlings per nest | 4 |
| Number of nests sampled | 9 |
| Total number of nestling hours | |
| (number of nestlings collared x one hour) | 51 |
| Number of food samples taken | 14 |
| Mortality of nestlings: | |
| Killed by parents | 3 |
| Killed by predators (unknown) | 5 |
| Unaccounted-for deaths | 3 |
| Number of runts in nests | 0 |

observed at the beginning of this study; however, their numbers quickly dropped as the marsh dried. Additional collection of samples is needed in order to determine possible diurnal food variations. It is interesting to note that small insects, such as leaf-hoppers, were brought to nestlings three to four days old, whereas larger lepidopterans made up most of the food samples from older nestlings. Out of a total of 51 nestling hours, four were unproductive. This could be due to neck bands that were applied too loosely. If the neck bands were left on longer than one hour the nestlings had a tendency to cough up food and the adults reduced their feeding rate. Nestlings older than six days had a tendency to leave the nest when approached, so every attempt was made to work with birds only three to six days old. Second broods were not noticed in the study area. Foraging adults were active throughout the daylight hours in the fields bordering the marsh. Generally, adults would not fly great distances to secure food.

It is hoped that this preliminary study and others to follow will contribute to a better understanding of this species in its range.

Birmingham-Southern College
Birmingham, Alabama 35204

THE 1967 BIRMINGHAM MIGRATION COUNTS

Robert R. Reid, Jr.

A colorful day of spring migrants and the brilliant foliage of autumn hardwoods highlighted the 1967 migration counts conducted by the Birmingham Audubon Society, using the Christmas Bird Count area and rules.

The spring count was held on May 6. Weather was mostly cloudy; temperature 62° to 73°; winds southerly 8 mph, a tornado striking the western edge of the area an hour before dusk. Twenty-nine observers (10 parties) logged 99½ party-hours, traveling 446 miles (390½ automobile, 53 foot, 2½ canoe) recorded 137 species and 9,934 individuals. Three additional species observed within a week of the count made a total of 140. Twelve records in abundance were set for the area.

The fall count was held on October 28. Weather was clear. Winds northerly 5 mph; temperature 38° to 66°. Thirty-three observers (nine parties) spent 97 party-hours, traveling 421 miles (372 automobile, 49 foot) to record 93 species and 15,479 individuals. The fall count was held later than in previous years in an attempt to get late departures and the bulk of winter residents, resulting in 25 species recorded during the count period but not on the count, making a total of 118 species. Fifteen late departure and early arrival records were set. These exclude a few individuals remaining into the winter, as the Little Blue Heron, Common Egret, Blue-winged Teal, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. If a 11-23-63 Solitary Sandpiper was considered a wintering bird, the one on the fall count would be a late migrant.

Birds Observed On The Counts

| | Spring | Fall | | Spring | Fall |
|-------------------|--------|------|---------------------|--------|-------|
| Common Loon | | *(n) | Lesser Scaup | 14 | 2 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 4 | 25 | Ruddy Duck | | 5 |
| Great Blue Heron | 1 | 3 | Hooded Merganser | | * |
| Green Heron | 19(g) | | Red-br. Merganser | | * |
| Little Blue Heron | | 1(l) | Turkey Vulture | 7 | 8 |
| Common Egret | | 1(m) | Black Vulture | | * |
| Y-cr Night Heron | 3 | | Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1 | 1 |
| American Bittern | 1 | | Cooper's Hawk | | 1 |
| Blue Goose (b) | 1 | 1 | Red-tailed Hawk | 2 | 4 |
| Mallard | 7 | 8 | Red-shouldered Hawk | 3 | 10 |
| Gadwall | | 3 | Marsh Hawk | | * |
| Green-winged Teal | | 3 | Pigeon Hawk | | 2 |
| Blue-winged Teal | 2 | 2(m) | Sparrow Hawk (c) | 1 | 14(e) |
| American Widgeon | | * | Bobwhite | 154 | 22 |
| Shoveler | | * | Turkey | | 2 |
| Wood Duck | 6 | 4 | American Coot | 15 | 479 |
| Redhead | | *(n) | Semipalmated Plover | 1 | |
| Ring-necked Duck | 2 | 103 | Killdeer | 68 | 193 |
| Canvasback | | 4 | American Woodcock | | * |

| | Spring | Fall | | Spring | Fall |
|---------------------|--------|-------|-----------------------|--------|--------|
| Common Snipe | 5 | 38 | Carolina Wren | 185(d) | 158 |
| Spotted Sandpiper | 20 | | L-billed Marsh Wren | * | * |
| Solitary Sandpiper | 16 | 1 | S-billed Marsh Wren | 1 | 1 |
| Greater Yellowlegs | | * | Mockingbird | 279 | 204 |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | 1 | 1(m) | Catbird | 29 | 1 |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | | * | Brown Thrasher | 76 | 37 |
| Least Sandpiper | 12 | 18 | American Robin | 240 | 283 |
| Herring Gull | | * | Wood Thrush | 180 | *(m) |
| Common Tern | | * | Hermit Thrush | | 6 |
| Mourning Dove | 296 | 608 | Swainson's Thrush | 10 | |
| Y-b Cuckoo | 55(d) | 1 | Gray-cheeked Thrush | 1 | |
| HL-b Cuckoo | 2 | | Veery | 4 | |
| Screech Owl | 1 | | Eastern Bluebird | 47 | 85 |
| Great Horned Owl | 1 | 2 | B-g Gnatcatcher | 58 | 1(l) |
| Barred Owl | | 1 | G-c Kinglet | 80 | |
| Chuck-will's-widow | 12 | | R-c Kinglet | 4 | 77 |
| Common Nighthawk | 16 | | Cedar Waxwing | 92 | |
| Chimney Swift | 481 | | Loggerhead Shrike | 8 | 14 |
| R-thr Hummingbird | 7 | | European Starling | 947 | 5,992 |
| Belted Kingfisher | 19 | 21 | White-eyed Vireo | 82 | |
| Y-s Flicker | 63 | 98 | Y-throated Vireo | 40 | |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 18 | 28 | Solitary Vireo | | * |
| R-b Woodpecker | 74 | 68 | Red-eyed Vireo | 228 | *(m) |
| R-h Woodpecker | 44 | 31 | Warbling Vireo | 1 | |
| Y-b Sapsucker | 2(k) | 38(e) | B-&W Warbler | 28 | * |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 11 | 9 | Prothonotary Warbler | 35(f) | |
| Downy Woodpecker | 48 | 63 | Worm-eating Warbler | 2 | |
| Red-c Woodpecker | 4 | 6 | G-winged Warbler | 1 | |
| Eastern Kingbird | 107(g) | | B-winged Warbler | 17 | |
| Western Kingbird | 1(h) | | Tennessee Warbler | 27 | 16 |
| Gr-cr Flycatcher | 144 | | O-crowned Warbler | | * |
| Eastern Phoebe | 18 | 32(e) | Nashville Warbler | 3(i) | *(m) |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 28 | | Parula Warbler | 10 | |
| Least Flycatcher | 2 | | Yellow Warbler | 134(d) | |
| E. Wood Pewee | 129(d) | | Magnolia Warbler | 2 | 1 |
| Bank Swallow | 21 | | Cape May Warbler | 6 | |
| Rough-w Swallow | 40 | | Myrtle Warbler | 26 | 253(f) |
| Barn Swallow | 22 | | B-thr-Green Warbler | 4 | 3 |
| Cliff Swallow | 2 | | Cerulean Warbler | 6 | |
| Purple Martin | 218 | | Blackburnian Warbler | 3 | 2 |
| Blue Jay | 330 | 383 | Y-throated Warbler | 23 | |
| Common Crow | 125 | 188 | Chestnut-s Warbler | 23 | |
| Carolina Chickadee | 149 | 219 | Bay-breasted Warbler | 4 | |
| Tufted Titmouse | 167 | 132 | Blackpoll Warbler | 14 | |
| Wh-br Nuthatch | 19 | 27 | Pine Warbler | 33 | 70(e) |
| Red-br Nuthatch | | 2 | Prairie Warbler | 55 | |
| Br-hd Nuthatch | 70 | 67 | Palm Warbler | 9 | 12(o) |
| Brown Creeper | | 1 | Ovenbird | 6 | *(l) |
| House Wren | | 1 | Northern Waterthrush | 3 | |
| Winter Wren | | 7 | Louisiana Waterthrush | 33(e) | |

| | Spring | Fall | | Spring | Fall |
|--------------------|--------|------|---------------------|--------|------|
| Kentucky Warbler | 29 | | Rose-b Grosbeak | 86(d) | 1(m) |
| Yellowthroat | 82 | 3 | Blue Grosbeak | 43 | |
| Y-breasted Chat | 105(d) | *(k) | Indigo Bunting | 145 | 6 |
| Hooded Warbler | 40 | | American Goldfinch | 375 | 23 |
| Canada Warbler | 4 | | Rufous-sided Towhee | 330 | 194 |
| American Redstart | 22 | | Savannah Sparrow | 9 | 46 |
| House Sparrow | 703 | 478 | Grasshopper Sparrow | | 1 |
| Bobolink | 169 | | Vesper Sparrow | 1(i) | 10 |
| Eastern Meadowlark | 177 | 196 | Slate-colored Junco | | 6 |
| Red-w Blackbird | 378 | 814 | Chipping Sparrow | 97 | 69 |
| Orchard Oriole | 53 | | Field Sparrow | 72 | 92 |
| Baltimore Oriole | 21(g) | | White-cr Sparrow | *(j) | |
| Rusty Blackbird | | * | White-th Sparrow | 35 | 301 |
| Common Grackle | 225 | 892 | Fox Sparrow | | *(n) |
| Br-headed Cowbird | 122 | 107 | Lincoln's Sparrow | 2(m) | 4 |
| Scarlet Tanager | 39(e) | * | Swamp Sparrow | 5 | 108 |
| Summer Tanager | 78 | * | Song Sparrow | 2 | 126 |
| Cardinal | 376 | 216 | | | |

Explanation of Notations

- * Observed within a week of the count date but not on the count.
- (b) A permanent resident on East Lake since first reported on 4-19-66.
- (c) Total numbers of individuals include two unidentified hawks and five unidentified Empidonax Flycatchers on the spring count and 1,500 unidentified blackbirds on the fall count.
- (d) High state record for abundance in Alabama.
- (e) High inland record in abundance for Alabama, except for a fall ceilometer casualty record in the case of the Scarlet Tanager.
- (f) High record in abundance for Northern Alabama.
- (g) High record in abundance for Mountain Region of Alabama.
- (h) Second inland spring record of this western species in Alabama.
- (i) Late state record for Alabama.
- (j) Late state record, outside of the Tennessee Valley.
- (k) Late inland record for Alabama.
- (l) Late record for Northern Alabama.
- (m) Late record for Mountain Region. Tie records for Blue-winged Teal and Nashville Warbler. The Lesser Yellowlegs was a cripple, minus a wing.
- (n) Early record for Mountain Region.
- (o) Three Palm Warblers were banded and were the yellow eastern race.

Participants (party leaders underscored) of both counts were: Naomi Banks, Andrew K. Bates, Raymond D. Bates, Michael L. Bierly, Jack N. Carusos, Walter F. Coxe, Blanche E. Dean, Mildred Ferris, Ann and Fred Fish, Corinne Glaze, Ed Greene, Helen H. Kittinger, Christine Leake, Clustie McIyeire, Annie Bestor Mitchell, Margarette K. Persons, Robert R. Reid, Jr., and Idalene F. Snead. Spring count only: Elizabeth Archibald, Ruth Brabston, Jerome B. Couch, Dan C. Holliman, Morton H. Perry, Rose Perry, Margie Tillotson, Joan Whittaker, and Lawanda Woods. Fall count only: J. Russell Bailey, Mary Burks, Ruth Carmichael, Dale Carruthers, Steve and Kevin Carusos, Blanche H. Chapman, John M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof, Ricky Kittinger, Wilma Lindberg, Virginia Nancarrow, Elberta G. Reid, and Harriett H. Wright.

2616 Mountain Brook Parkway
Birmingham, Alabama 35223

GENERAL NOTES

AVOCET RECORD

Two American Avocets, Recurvirostra americana, were collected one mile north of Montgomery, Montgomery Co., Alabama, August 20, 1967. They were in a shallow, one-acre open pond with a small flock of Blue-winged Teal. This is the first record for the upper coastal plain for this western species. There has been only one specimen for the state and it is in the National Museum. The specimens reported here are in the collection of the Alabama Department of Conservation.- - Robert W. Skinner, State Conservation Department, Montgomery, Alabama, 36100.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER RECORD

A female White-winged Scoter, Melanitta deglandi, was seen in the Gulf of Mexico, one mile west of Pelican Point, Dauphin Island, Mobile Co., Alabama, on August 12, 1967. The bird was about 200 yards off shore and was approached to within 30 yards by boat. This represents an early record for the Gulf Coast. - - Robert W. Skinner, State Conservation Department, Montgomery, Alabama, 36100.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW RECORD

A single Long-billed Curlew, Numenius americanus, was sighted on the beach at Destin, Okaloosa Co., Florida, July 23, 1967.- - Robert W. Skinner, State Conservation Department, Montgomery, Alabama, 36100.

MINUTES OF FALL MEETING
ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OCTOBER 13-15, 1967

The regular fall meeting of the Alabama Ornithological Society was held at Florence, Alabama, on October 13-15, 1967. Headquarters was the King's Inn, on U. S. Highway 72 East. Forty-seven members and guests attended the meeting.

Executive Council Meeting

The Executive Council met at 10:25 a.m. on October 14. Present were: James C. Robinson, President; Helen H. Kittinger, Vice President; Louise N. McKinstry, Treasurer; Elberta G. Reid, Secretary; Robert R. Reid, Jr., Immediate Past President; Julian L. Dusi, Editor, Alabama Birdlife, Librarian and Director; Rosemary T. Dusi, Margaret L. Robinson, Thomas A. Imhof, and James E. Keeler, Directors.

Minutes of the June Council meeting were read and approved.

Action on the old business regarding water pollution was deferred until after the program on that subject Saturday evening.

It was moved and agreed to unanimously that a resolution on stream channelization be presented at the general business meeting.

A tentative budget of \$525.00 was adopted for the coming calendar year, to be distributed as follows: Alabama Birdlife, \$350.00; Newsletter, \$150.00; Treasurer's office, \$25.00. It was voted that the subscription price of Alabama Birdlife be \$2.00 a year, or \$.75 per copy, to non-members.

James Keeler reported that the hawk legislation, proposed by the society, had passed the house but had bogged down in the senate. He felt that it should be passed during the next session.

The President announced the formation of a Huntsville group with some 25 members, including five from AOS. The group had voted to affiliate with AOS. Therefore the council voted to affiliate the group as the Huntsville Chapter of the Alabama Ornithological Society.

Thomas Imhof proposed that the society sponsor the acquisition of a color slide collection of Alabama birds. The council instructed the President to appoint a committee to investigate the feasibility and details of such an undertaking and report at the next meeting. The committee appointed was: Margaret L. Robinson, Chairman; Julian L. Dusi, Thomas A. Imhof, James E. Keeler, Helen H. Kittinger and Harriett H. Wright.

Thomas Imhof also suggested the society investigate establishment of a coastal sanctuary for water birds, in Alabama.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

General Business Meeting

The general business meeting was called to order by the President at 1:25 p.m., October 14. A quorum was present.

Minutes of the annual meeting, in April, were read and amended to change the number of states represented from eight to nine and to add the name of Connecticut to the list. The amended minutes were then approved.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$466.71 in the checking account, \$283.70 in the savings account (life membership fund) and a total of 238 members.

The amendment of the AOS By-laws, Article I, Section 1, as presented at the Annual Meeting in April and published in the Newsletter, was voted to be changed as follows:

"Article I. Dues and Membership

- Sec. 1. There shall be six classes of membership.
- a. Active Members. Entitled to all privileges of the Society upon payment of the annual dues... \$3.00.
 - b. Associate Members (out-of-state). Entitled to all of the privileges of the Society, except the privilege to hold office and vote, upon payment of the annual dues... \$2.00.
 - e. Life Members. Will be entitled to all of the privileges of the Society, as a member desiring to pay his dues for the rest of his life in one sum. Memberships may be paid within a two-year period... \$75.00."

It was voted that these changes take place beginning with the calendar year of 1968.

The following resolution on stream channelization was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and some other agencies in cooperation with local groups are employing or considering for virtually every significant stream in Alabama the channelization of those streams as an aid to the drainage of farm lands and for other purposes;

WHEREAS, a stream channelization project requires the clearing of a right-of-way, sometimes up to 100 feet, on each side of the stream, thereby necessitating the cutting down of trees in order to permit access by heavy dredging equipment to deepen the stream bed and straighten its sides and in order to provide an area for disposal of the soil taken from the bottom and sides of the stream;

WHEREAS, the cutting down of such trees and the channelizing of the stream must of necessity destroy the scenic and most recreational values of the stream and also the bottomland woods along its banks, which woods when destroyed cannot be replaced except over a great period of time;

WHEREAS, stream channelization appears the least preferable method of attempting drainage of lands since it runs counter to basic conservation practices that look toward holding back water and planting or preserving trees to retain water in the watershed;

WHEREAS, in the case of a stream channelization project, erosion arising from the cutting down of the trees and straightening the stream banks must be counteracted and problems of silting and flooding downstream must be alleviated;

WHEREAS, stream channelization projects destroy natural fish spawning grounds and food supplies as well as habitat for mammals, birds and other forms of wildlife;

WHEREAS, certain proposed stream channelization projects, such as the channelization of Swan Creek in Limestone County, would result in destruction of a significant part of the woodlands in the stream's watershed and, in that case, a significant part of the woodlands in the Swan Creek Waterfowl Management Area operated by the Alabama State Department of Conservation;

Founded May 17, 1952

WHEREAS, in determining the cost-benefit ratio of stream channelization projects, the loss to the public arising from the destruction of woodlands is usually not taken into account; and

WHEREAS, the channelization of a stream requires the expenditure of relatively large amounts of taxpayer's funds, while in the case of farm lands such funds are at the same time being expended through the soil bank and similar programs for withdrawing other farm lands from production;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Alabama Ornithological Society that this Society does hereby strongly recommend and urge that stream channelization be discontinued as a method of attempting to drain farm lands or for any other purposes and that, in lieu thereof, the building of water retention structures and the increased use of other water retention practices such as contour planting be employed for those purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in evidence of the concern of the Society about this matter, certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Alabama, its Director of Conservation, the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, the State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service for the State of Alabama, the South Atlantic Division and Mobile District Engineers of the U. S. Corps of Engineers, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Southeast Regional Director for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, each of the United States Senators and Representatives from the State of Alabama, and any other agencies or public officials concerned.

It was voted that the Executive Council be instructed to publish a list of the membership biannually, in any form it thought suitable, and distribute it to the membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

(Minutes condensed from the Proceedings, by the Editor.)

Respectfully submitted,

Elberta G. Reid, Secretary

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Please make the following corrections in your
issues of Volume 15:

No. 1, page 11. Change Eared Grebes listed for Birmingham and Ben
Secour to Horned Grebes. The only Eared Grebes
were seen at Mobile.

No. 3-4, page 38. Change the 80 Golden-crowned Kinglets from spring
to the fall column.
Change 144 Great Crested Flycatchers to 144.