

LOUISIANA
ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



No. 21

Shreveport, Louisiana

October 27, 1959

This is the last LOS News to be edited by me. I would like to thank the many members who have so generously contributed to the LOS News during my term of office. Without their help the issues would have been very thin.

The Fall Meeting is to be in Cameron on November 28-29, 1959. Details of this meeting are given in the first article of this issue. Two vacation reports by two of our best birders, Horace Jeter and Johnny Gee, cover two very interesting birding areas, Arizona and Maine. Other feature items in this issue of the LOS News are notes and news on members and events, a list of new LOS members, a list of new occurrence dates for Louisiana birds and a proposed amendment to the LOS Constitution Bylaws. Last but not least is a very interesting letter from Ronnie Stein, one of our younger members, who tells about his Atlantic Crossing.

A new format for the LOS News heading is being used on this issue. Please let us know what you think of it.

Best wishes and good birding.

Sincerely yours,
James R. Stewart
President

CAMERON IN NOVEMBER!

The 1959 Fall Meeting will be in Cameron on November 28-29. The vote for the date, although small, was overwhelmingly in favor of the Thanksgiving weekend. No one preferred the December date.

Headquarters for the Fall Meeting will be at the old Cameron Hotel, where lodging may be obtained for about \$2.00 a person a night. For those of you who prefer more modern facilities than those available at

the Hotel, Broussard's Motel and the Gulf Motel have them at prices ranging from five to eight dollars a couple. Letters will reach any of these establishments if addressed simply to Cameron, La.

Wherever you decide to stay, be sure to register at the Cameron Hotel immediately upon reaching town. A dinner get-together will be held in the private dining room at Fred's Drive-Inn at 7:00 P.M. on Saturday night (November 28). It is essential that we know as early as possible on Saturday approximately how many people will attend so that arrangements can be completed at the Drive-Inn. As is customary for the Cameron dinner, each person will make his selection from the restaurant's menu. After dinner and the business meeting Mrs. Ethel Jones of Shreveport will show some of her recent movies.

The organization of the field trips is in the capable hands of Johnny Gee. He is planning to visit Cameron early so he can send us to the best areas. It is hoped that we will be able to provide an experienced birder familiar with Cameron and its birds for each car on a field trip, but certainly for those new to Cameron. To get in on the organized field trips meet at Fred's Restaurant Saturday morning at 6:00 to 7:00 A.M.. If you possibly can do so it would be well to come to Cameron on Friday so you can have a full day's outing on Saturday.

SEE YOU IN CAMERON!

NOTES AND NEWS

Dr. George H. Lowery has been informed by the Director of the Louisiana State University Press that his book, LOUISIANA BIRDS, is now out of print. The Press had quite a calamity happen this summer when a terrific rainstorm flooded the basement of their building where much of their stock was stored. Dr. Lowery states that he is

now in the midst of preparing for a second printing, which will include revisions, but he is afraid it will be several months before this printing is ready.

Three new graduate students have enrolled at L.S.U. this fall--Laurence Binford of Michigan, Burt Monroe, Jr. of Louisville, Kentucky, and Francis Rolle of Puerto Rico (all new LOS members, incidentally). You readers of AUDUBON FIELD NOTES are probably familiar with Burt and some of the snazzy records he has obtained while in the Air Force--Little Gull (collected), White-winged Black Tern, and Surf Bird, all at Pensacola, Florida, and a new species for the AOU Checklist, the Japanese Gull at San Diego. Laurence Binford has also added a new species to the AOU Checklist, a Five-striped Sparrow in southeastern Arizona. Competition, fellows!

Dr. Van T. Harris was transferred from Lafayette to Denver, Colorado at the end of June. His address is now:

Wildlife Research Laboratory
Building 45, Federal Center
Denver 25, Colorado

Dr. Harris is now engaged in a study of the Coyote.

Ethel Jones, Electa Levi, Ava Tabor and her nephew Roland Caldwell are just back from a grand tour of the western United States and Canada. Wisconsin, Winnipeg, Regina for the AOU Meeting, Banff, Glacier, Yellowstone and Teton National Parks, and the Bear River Marshes in Utah were their major stops. Western Grebe, both swans, Sharp-tailed Grouse and Pine Grosbeak are some of the almost 200 species they saw.

Katherine Hearne has left for a several weeks' tour of England and the continent, including Spain. She expects to be back on November 17, in time for the Fall Meeting.

Eileen Low received her PhD in biology from Tulane this summer and in February, 1960 takes off for Australia where she will teach at the University of Melbourne. Congratulations and good wishes from the LOS, and we'll be expecting an exciting report on bird life in Australia early in 1960.

We hear Ronnie Stein will soon be going for a two and one half year tour of duty in Europe. Good birding, Ronnie.

Brian Donlan, now married, in the Navy, and stationed in San Diego, recently returned from a trip in Mexico where he saw Striped-headed Sparrows, Rufous-capped Warblers, Slate-throated Redstarts, Blue Mockingbirds and numerous other good birds.

One of our younger members, David Weber has enlisted in the army and is stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. He says birding is

about as good there as it is at Cameron---Traitor!

Fall birding in New Orleans has started with a bang with a Black-whiskered Vireo seen in City Park by Sidney Gauthreaux and Mary Lewis. Other good birds seen recently in the New Orleans area were two Swallow-tailed Kites and numerous Wilson's Phalaropes.

New Orleanians also went afield for birds ---the Evanses found a Western Tanager and five Gray Kingbirds at Dauphin Island and a Western Tanager at Grand Isle; Dorothy Howerton and Mary Lewis also found the Western Tanager and a Roseate Tern at Dauphin Island, and the next day, along with Sidney and Mac Myers, saw eleven Gray Kingbirds and nine Knots.

Two rare birds who escaped the best efforts of the birding party from New Orleans that set out to find them were Rita Smith Walther and John Walther. Reports from everyone in Biloxi, Ocean Springs and Pascagoula confirmed their marriage in July and their presence in Ocean Springs--but no address could be found. Congratulations and best wishes, Rita and John, from all the LOS---but what is that new address?

New Orleans birders, desolate over the loss through drainage of their best shore bird habitat, were thrilled with the new wild life preserve that has been established at the northeastern edge of the City. Suburban areas had been settling up so quickly that there was fear that all the land bird area would soon be gone, too.

1959-1960 AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

LAFAYETTE, LA., Hamilton Auditorium, SLI
Campus, 7:30 P.M.

Earthquake Lake, Karl H. Maslowski, Tues.,
October 27

Canada Sea to Sea, Bert Harwell, Mon., Dec-
ember 14

An Ozark Anthology, Leonard Hall, Saturday,
February 6 (Burke Hall Theater, SLI)

Motmots and Mayas, Ernest P. Edwards, Fri.,
March 11

Puerto Rico, U.S.A., Fran William Hall,
Tuesday, May 10

SHREVEPORT, LA., Louisiana State Exhibit
Building, 8:00 P.M.

Earthquake Lake, Karl H. Maslowski, Sat.,
November 7

Canada Sea to Sea, Bert Harwell, Fri., Dec-
ember 11

An Ozark Anthology, Leonard Hall, Friday,
February 5

Motmots and Mayas, Ernest P. Edwards, Sat.,
March 12

Puerto Rico, U. S. A., Fran William Hall,
Wednesday, May 11

BIRDING IN THE GADSDEN PURCHASE

By Horace Jeter

As everyone knows who has read Peterson's Birds Over America, some of the best birding in the country is to be found in the border country of Arizona. I was there twice several years ago and have been looking forward to a third trip to pick up several of the more elusive species, particularly that beautiful specialty, the Coppery-tailed Trogon. When I learned that a new species of bird for the U.S. had been found in that area, I decided that 1959 was the time to go.

On the morning of May 25 I reached the Chiricahua Mountains, an area which I think is unsurpassed for exciting birding. Here I quickly renewed acquaintance with the BRIDLED TITMOUSE, HEPATIC Tanager, PAINTED REDSTART, MEXICAN JAY and OLIVACEOUS FLY-CATCHER. I was to spend a few days at the Southwest Research Station near Portal. Upon arrival there I was taken to the hummingbird feeders which were being visited regularly by four species: BLACK-CHINNED (most numerous), BLUE-THROATED (most aggressive), RIVOLI'S (most beautiful), and VIOLET-CROWNED (rarest). The BROAD-TAILED would show up occasionally, but it was more easily found higher up the mountains. Rufous were said to visit during migration.

Next morning I drove up to the pine forest at Rustler Park. Here were MEXICAN CHICKADEE, OLIVE WARBLER, MEXICAN JUNCO, and two nesting pairs of BROWN-THROATED WRENS. The wren is possibly only a geographical representative of the House Wren, but the birds at Rustler Park are visibly different in appearance from the House Wren one sees in the Santa Catalina Mountains near Tucson. Also at Rustler Park were WESTERN BLUEBIRD, AUDUBON'S and RED-FACED WARBLERS.

Each night that I was in the Chiricahuas I went on an owling trip--with very good results. Near Camp Stewart I heard WHIP-POOR-WILLS and PYGMY OWLS, saw and heard the FLAMMULATED OWL, and watched WHISKERED OWLS feeding young in the nest. The Whiskered Owl looks for all the world like a Screech Owl, but the call is different (we got it calling, too); the "whiskers" showed up in a photograph, but we could not see them otherwise.

My next major point of interest was Guadalupe Canyon east of Douglas. This is the only place where the THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD has been found in the United States. Following the directions of Seymour Levy, the discoverer of the kingbird here, I proceed-

ed up the canyon from the Mexican border. The cottonwoods and sycamores were teeming with flycatchers of several species. Less than two miles up the canyon a sharp call unlike any other sound I'd heard in Arizona attracted my attention to a pair of birds which I immediately recognized as the hoped for Thick-billed Kingbird. Although the general appearance is definitely kingbird-like,¹ the color pattern (described well by Blake¹) and the call are quite distinctive. In the same area I saw a male BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD, a beautiful little bird.

One of the areas in Arizona which has become famous in recent years is the Sonita Creek Valley near Patagonia. Here is one of the few breeding sites in this country of the ROSE-THROATED BECARD, as well as the GRAY HAWK. I saw several nesting pairs of becards and one Gray Hawk; also PHAINOPEPLA RED-EYED COWBIRD, GILA WOODPECKER, and LES-SER GOLDFINCH. From here a road of sorts goes up Josephine Canyon, one of the major south-facing canyons of the Santa Rita range. I had been told that a pair of COPPERY-TAILED TROGONS had been seen up the canyon. After driving as far as I could in my car, I set out on foot. Along the way I was astounded to see a pair of MEARNS'S QUAIL---Lifer!---cross the trail before me. They were rather tame and afforded me an excellent opportunity to observe them. I proceeded on up the canyon, disturbing a Whip-poor-will, a tiny rattlesnake, and a Coati-Mundi, before I heard the peculiar call heralding the presence of that lifer of lifers, the Coppery-tailed Trogon! I saw only the male, but heard a second bird. I watched and watched, as he sat and called and as he peered into a cavity in a tree.

A few days later, as I got out of my car at the end of the road in Madera Canyon on the opposite side of the Santa Ritas, I heard trogons calling. Here I got only a glimpse of the male, but watched a female which sat in plain view for me on the branch of an oak.

At Tucson, Seymour Levy took me to a home where a feeding station was maintained. The principal attraction was a pair of RUFOUS-WINGED SPARROWS which appeared every evening. Also present were GAMBEL'S QUAIL, a family of CACTUS WRENS, CURVE-BILLED and BENDIRE'S THRASHERS and PYRRHULOXIA. Not far away I saw a pair of GILDED FLICKERS.

I looked in vain for several species: Zone-tailed and Black Hawks, Spotted Owl, Costa's Hummingbird, Buff-breasted Flycatcher and Crissal Thrasher. So, like I said last spring, I need to go back to Arizona border country!

¹Blake, Emmet R., Birds of Mexico

NEW OCCURRENCE DATES FOR LOUISIANA BIRDS

As most of you know, the LOS has reprints of Dr. Lowery's SUMMARY OF SEASONAL OCCURRENCES OF LOUISIANA BIRDS available at 25 cents a copy. These can be obtained from the LOS secretary, Mrs. George H. Lowery, 6255 Chandler Drive, Baton Rouge.

The list below contains the earlier or later dates of occurrence, as compiled from AUDUBON FIELD NOTES up through Volume 13, Number 4, August 1959, that have been recorded since the last supplement. The other supplements appeared in numbers 10, 11, 13 and 19 of the LOS News.

The dates listed are primarily for the state as a whole. The few Baton Rouge dates are indicated by an asterisk if they are also for the state or by uncapitalized names if only for Baton Rouge.

Eared Grebe: New University Lake, Baton Rouge, Jan. 20 and Feb. 17 (BMB, Mrs. Martin). REDDISH EGRET: North Island, June 7 (HAJE, WHT), Cameron, Oct. 4 (SAG, JPG). MALLARD: Wallace Lake, Shreveport, Aug. 30 (HHJ). SHOVELLER: Cameron, May 14 (MMS). RING-NECKED DUCK: New Orleans, Sept. 13 (BMM, MM). SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Grand Isle, Feb. 28 (ART, MEC, EDL). OSPREY: Cameron, Dec. 28 (ART). PEREGRINE FALCON: Cameron, May 9 (Moore). STILT SANDPIPER: Grand Isle, Mar. 22 (SAG). BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: New Orleans, July 31 (SAG). BONAPARTE GULL: Cameron, Apr. 25 (JPG). BLACK TERN: Grand Isle, Jan. 16 (ART). YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: *Baton Rouge, Mar. 9 (BMB, Mrs. Peebles), Reserve, Nov. 24 (MW, RFC, FW). BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: Venice, Oct. 19 (JPG, SAG). WESTERN KINGBIRD: New Orleans, Dec. 11 (SAG), Feb. 15 and Mar. 1 (HBC). LEAST FLYCATCHER: Willow Island near Cameron, Dec. 28 (JPG, SAG, RAN). *EASTERN WOOD PEWEE: Baton Rouge, Jan. 3 (BMB). RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: Shreveport, May 11 (AWC). BELL'S VIREO: Reserve, Jan. 17 (MW, RFC). YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: Thibodaux, Jan. 25 (ART). GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: New Orleans, Aug. 13 (SAG); Shreveport, May 16 (JRS). MAGNOLIA WARBLER: Cameron, Dec. 7 (SAG). BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: New Orleans, Dec. 20 (Christmas Count). BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: Fontainebleau State Park, Nov. 30 (SLW); Grand Isle, Mar. 22 (SAG). YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Grand Isle, Nov. 29 (JPG). Black-poll'd Warbler: Baton Rouge, Apr. 22 (Dixes, Moore). PRAIRIE WARBLER: New Orleans, Nov. 16 (SAG). OVENBIRD: Reserve, Dec. 27 (RJS, NC). MOURNING WARBLER: Shreveport, May 16 (JRS). HOODED WARBLER: Cameron, Dec. 6 (JPG, SAG, ML). BOBOLINK: Shreveport, Oct. 5 (HHJ, JRS). SCARLET Tanager: New Orleans, Oct. 18 (SAG). SUMMER

Tanager: New Orleans, Mar. 15 (JPG). INDIGO BUNTING: Thibodaux, Mar. 1 (ART).

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A DOWNEAST VACATION

By Johnny Gee

MATINICUS ISLAND

We sailed at 7:30 A. M. with forty crates of very dead fish (lobster bait), assorted sacks of mail, groceries, mattress, a television set, and islanders returning from the mainland. GREAT BLACK-BACKED and HERRING GULLS followed us past spruce-clad islands, granite cliffs, and a lighthouse which belonged on a picture postcard. Cormorants perched on every post and buoy. A few Common Crows flew over the lighthouse.

We hit fog after leaving Rockland harbor and the shelter of the coastal islands. I felt we would be lucky to see any birds.

Halfway to Matinicus a WILSON'S PETREL darted swallow-like out of the fog close by the rear of the boat. A PUFFIN flew by. Terns passed us as though in a hurry to reach their destinations; most were ARCTIC, but a few were COMMON. As we neared the end of our two and a half hour voyage, flocks of EIDERS lifted heavily off the water--not lobster pots this time, but real "seaducks". Plump GUILLEMOTS flushed before the boat. Gulls and cormorants became abundant. An OSPREY flew over the cliffs, as the fog cleared. We cruised into a harbor which looked like a painting from the wild and lovely coast of Maine.

Matinicus Island is about two miles in diameter. The high central part is cleared for fields, old farms and clean, white homes. The remainder is spruce forest, except for grassy promontories, the rocky coast and a few sheltered beaches. Small islets surrounded us. In the distance could be seen other large islands of the archipelago.

The island often seems to be inhabited only by birds. One can walk half a day without seeing or hearing a person or machine, but birds are everywhere and they sing continuously, even in July. Seldom have I

visited a place where 40 songbirds were so much in evidence.

Wood warblers are the dominant summer residents. We delighted in the songs of many different kinds, including BLACK-POLL, BAY-BREASTED, MYRTLE, MAGNOLIA, YELLOW, NASHVILLE, BLACK-THROATED GREEN & REDSTART. CLIFF SWALLOWS nested under the eaves of white houses; BANK SWALLOWS fed in the meadows. LINCOLN SPARROWS skulked in the brushy borders, and WHITE-THROATS sang from the depths of the forest. Other common birds of northern affinity included GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET, RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, JUNCO, BOBOLINK, OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH and SAVANNAH SPARROW. The gulls constantly surprised us with the variety of their cries. Eiders were rearing their young in isolated places near the shore. A few migrant shorebirds were beginning to appear on the small beaches.

Our visit the following day to Matinicus Rock, 5 miles southeast of Matinicus Island, was a trip I shall never forget. Even before we started we found new birds---both species of CROSSBILLS.

The sea was covered with heavy fog as we headed straight out into the Atlantic. We could just see the dim outline of the island when we anchored offshore Matinicus Rock and rowed a dinghy through treacherous shoals to the base of a steep cliff. Coastguardsmen hitched a winch to the prow of our boat and hauled us up a slide to the top.

The air was filled with the wings and harsh cries of ARCTIC TERNS. Flocks of ATLANTIC PUFFINS and BLACK GUILLEMOTS flew to and from their feeding grounds, perched with clownish dignity on the rocks, or fished in the waves below. Gulls dove on us with squeals of anger while others posted sentinal on boulders, waiting hungrily for a tern to leave its chick unattended. Baby SPOTTED SANDPIPERS bob incessantly even before they are dry from the egg.

Rita found one pair of Common Terns but hours of searching failed to reveal the rare Roseate. We were surprised to find five RAZOR-BILLED AUKS, in showy summer plumage, as this species does not nest so far south.

With some misgivings I probed as far as my arm could reach into the many burrows hidden in the grass on the shoulder of the island. Sure enough, I pulled out a LEACH'S PETREL. We admired its soft gray feathers and minature albatross bill before letting it dash frantically for its nest hole and eggs.

Leaving Matinicus Rock was an amazing experience. We all got into the dinghy while it sat at the top of the cliff. The coastguardsmen gave us a shove and we plum-

meted down the slide, splash into the ocean! We thought we would go under like a submarine. The lighthouse stands 150 feet above the sea; but, last winter the light was broken by waves.

On the return trip a SOOTY SHEARWATER veered close alongside our boat. We passed an island where a herd of seals gazed curiously at us, and arrived back at Matinicus Island just as the fog cleared to reveal a beautiful warm afternoon.

Saturday morning was spent mostly in watching for the mailboat. It seems the mailman is independent. Sometimes he turns right around and returns to Rockland, sometimes he decides to spend a night or two on Matinicus and sometimes he leaves on schedule at 1:30 in the afternoon. Fortunately for us he left on time that Saturday afternoon.

While waiting we enjoyed the cool sea-breeze flavored with spruce. Crossbills flew over the forest; guillemots and eiders swam in the clear, blue sea. We listened again to the warblers and plaintive White-throated Sparrow, knowing we would probably never be back, but wishing, for the moment at least, that we could stay forever.

KATAHDIN

The other half of our vacation was spent at Baxter State Forest under the shadow of Mt. Katahdin. Again we were favored with delightful weather and helpful people, but the vast north woods was in the summer doldrums. Birding was excellent only in the early morning hours. We worked hard to find BROWN-CAPPED CHICKADEES and a single GRAY JAY. We missed Spruce Grouse and Black-backed Woodpecker and failed to make positive identification of the Goshawk. We enjoyed seeing the COMMON Merganser, RUFFED GROUSE, YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, RAVEN, WINTER WREN, GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH, PHILADELPHIA VIREO, RUSTY BLACKBIRD, PURPLE FINCH, PINE SISKIN, the amazing variety of warblers, and other birds unknown as breeding birds here in the south. Also Moose, Black Bear, deer and fox. We climbed mountains, canoed, explored back trails, swam in crystal clear lakes, and at night fell asleep listening to the wild bugling of LOONS and the singing of WHIP-POOR-WILLS.

We wisely decided to devote our time to just two places of interest. If we return I still want to visit Mt. Desert Island in Acadia National Park and take that ferry ride between Maine and Nova Scotia. It was one of the nicest vacations we have had. I hope the other members of LOS will enjoy Maine as we did.



NEW LOS MEMBERS

In recent months the LOS has continued to grow. We extend a hearty welcome to our new members, which includes two Life members.

NEW ACTIVE MEMBERS

Dr. Page W. Acree
6809 Goodwood Avenue
Baton Rouge, La.
Mr. Laurence C. Binford
Museum of Zoology-LSU
Baton Rouge, La.
Mr. Leon C. Bergeron
2019 Monroe Street
Alexandria, La.
Mrs. Heidel Brown
6605 Jefferson Highway
Baton Rouge, La.
Mr. G. W. Cline, Jr.
804 South Texas Street
DeRidder, La.
Mrs. Frank Coates, Jr.
2330 Ebony Street
Baton Rouge, La.
Mr. Richard C. Davis
1736 Bayou Drive
Shreveport, La.
Mr. Robert B. DeBlieux
200 Jefferson Street
Natchitoches, La.
Mr. John Allen Feduccia
Memorial Drive
Cleveland, Miss.
Mrs. John C. Ferm
M12 Faculty Apts.-LSU
Baton Rouge, La.
Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Floyd
Route 1, Box 252
Shreveport, La.
Mr. Will J. Fullilove
3228 Fairfield Avenue
Shreveport, La.
Mrs. Shelley R. Gaines
109 Friedrichs Avenue
Metairie, La.
Mr. Douglas L. Lay
Museum of Zoology-LSU
Baton Rouge, La.
Mrs. Ora McCarroll
2209 Cloverdale Avenue
Baton Rouge, La.
Mrs. Corrie Lee Merritt
Pelican, La.
Mr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr.
Museum of Zoology-LSU
Baton Rouge, La.
Mr. Robert A. Norris
Dept. of Zoology-LSU
Baton Rouge, La.
Mr. Glenn Raymond Ousset
226 South Gayoso Street
New Orleans 19, La.
Mr. Otis Sidney Plott
3936 Houston Street
Shreveport, La.

Mr. Francis J. Rolle
Museum of Zoology-LSU
Baton Rouge, La.
Mrs. Montez Laurence Russ
431 College Street
Shreveport, La.
Miss Phyllida Willis
Newcomb College
Tulane University
New Orleans, La.
Mr. Sydney J. Garic
349 Celeste Avenue
New Orleans 23, La.
Miss Gesine Anne Maria Goossen
1110 Magnolia Woods
Baton Rouge, La.
Mr. Thomas W. Thorne, Jr.
1106-1/2 Pemston Street
New Orleans 15, La.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. A. S. Jauchler
707 Eleanore Street
New Orleans 15, La.
Mr. Chandler Robbins
Patuxent Research Refuge
Laurel, Maryland

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Albert E. Eigenbrod
Miss Rose Feingold
Mrs. Horace C. Hearne
Mrs. J. Lewis Jones
Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Krebs
Mrs. Electa D. Levi
Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Moore
Mrs. B. Stanley Nelson
Miss Mary Lewis
Miss Rena Wilson

PATRONS

Miss Ava R. Tabor
Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. J. Evans

PROPOSED BYLAWS ADMENDMENT

The LOS has four classes of Membership: Active, Sustaining, Life and Patron. Life and Patron members make only one payment to the LOS and thereafter are not required to pay any annual dues. This payment is \$25 for a Life membership and \$100 or more for a Patron. The LOS now has fourteen Life and three Patron members.

There is no method defined in the LOS Constitution for the use or preservation of the funds received from Life and Patron memberships. At present, these funds are lumped with the general funds of the LOS and spent as desired. Your president and other members believe that all Life membership dues and at least an equivalent amount

from all Patron dues should be retained by the LOS as a permanent, income producing fund. This is customary practice in organizations that have such grades of membership. Therefore the proposed amendment to the LOS Constitution Bylaws, shown below, is submitted to the members of LOS for a mail vote. Article IV of the Bylaws states that the Bylaws may be amended on the basis of a two-thirds vote of members responding in ten days to a mail ballot addressed to the entire membership. Your ballot must be sent in to count as an affirmative or negative vote.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE LOS CONSTITUTION BYLAWS: PROPOSED ARTICLE V

SECTION 1: The revenues of this Society shall be divided into two funds: 1) A Capital Fund for investment consisting of Life Membership dues, at least an equivalent amount of each Patron's dues, gifts so designated and transfers from the Operating Fund, and 2) An Operating Fund for current expenses and special projects consisting of all other receipts, including interest from the Capital Fund.

SECTION 2: Investment of the Capital Fund shall be determined by the Executive Committee, but shall be limited to investments on the "Legal List" (Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, 9:2061)* or mutual funds. Funds may be transferred from the Operating Fund to the Capital Fund at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

*"Legal List" includes U.S., State and municipal obligations, bank savings accounts and similar investments.

MY ATLANTIC CROSSING

Ronnie Stein

This is a letter about Ronnie's trip across the Atlantic Ocean. It has some most interesting observations and I'm sure will be as interesting to you as to those few who have already read it.

Atlantic Ocean to English Channel
September 30 - October 7, 1959

BALLOT FOR PROPOSED LOS CONSTITUTION BYLAW,
ARTICLE V

For

Against

Mail to: Mrs. George H. Lowery, Jr.
6255 Chandler Drive
Baton Rouge, La.

Hi Dr. Lowery,

Well I'm now bound for Europe, the place being Orleans, France, situated 70 miles south of Paris. I should see many lifers and I hope to buy a movie camera to record them. I will keep you informed of my finds. Here is a day by day record of observations made by me while on board the ship.

We left Brooklyn Army terminal at 3:00 P.M., Wednesday, September 30. While leaving port we saw scores of RING-BILLED and HERRING GULLS with an occasional BONAPARTE. They followed us for some distance but by the next morning none were to be seen anywhere. The day seemed rather dull until someone yelled "Whales". Sure enough there were two whales spouting water into the air. Practically everybody was looking for whales after that. Another good find that day was a shark. The same afternoon I added two lifers: a CORY'S SHEARWATER followed the ship for some time and came very close to the deck; a couple of hours later two (AUDUBON?) shearwaters were flying about the water but never followed the ship like the Cory's did. Shortly after that several small birds, black above and white below, were also flying about but I couldn't identify them. The next day, the 2nd of October, was even better. I added another lifer a WILSON'S PETREL. A steady rain was followed by a cold front with rapidly clearing skies, and then clouds again. Migrating birds must have really been off their course. About a dozen WATER PIPITS followed the ship and several landed. Then at that same moment I got quite a shock by seeing a DUCK HAWK. That's right, a Duck Hawk! He also landed on board ship and I approached so close that I could see the sideburn patch clearly. That wasn't all though. I saw everybody looking up and I assumed they were also looking at the Duck Hawk. Then I looked up and to my surprise saw a KINGFISHER sitting on one of the wires across the ship. When dusk approached the Duck Hawk was still present. This all took place about 800 to 1000 miles out in the Atlantic. I also saw snipe.

October 3: Today was partly cloudy and very cold. I saw two more shearwaters which I now believe are Cory's. I've changed my mind on those which I thought were Audubon's. I got a better look at these two and am quite certain they were Cory's. I also saw scores of petrels today and a few had the characteristic butterfly flight of the Leach's Petrel. Unfortunately, they did not come close enough to the ship for me to see their forked tail. I finally found out what the mystery bird is. They are FULMARS. Many of them continuously stayed pretty close to the ship. My day was highlighted further by seeing five SKUAS.

October 4: Today we reached our midmark in the Atlantic. The first bird I saw was

a lone peep, presumably a Semipalmated; it seemed to want to land on the deck. I saw another Skua and many Fulmars and Wilson Petrels. My greatest find so far this trip was a SNOW BUNTING, which landed on the ship and was eating bread crumbs, etc. on the deck. It seemed very hungry and exhausted. A boy tried to catch it but it flew away in a rather weak flight only to land several moments later on the same spot. It finally disappeared when I was getting better looks at the numerous Fulmars. It was very choppy today with 25 foot waves and many sick guys.

October 5: At this moment we are about 500 miles past our midmark in the Atlantic. The Fulmars were scarce today with the exception of a single flock of approximately 200. The big word today is SOOTY SHEARWATER, of which I saw four. Another big surprise was a HENSLOW SPARROW, which I came within a yard of catching before it flew. Like most of the other land birds it landed on the deck. The sea was really rough today with big waves reaching the top of the deck. I had a rough night sleeping. While eating chow our plates slid from one end of the table to the other with one occasionally falling off.

October 6: The sea became much quieter today as we approached the vicinity of the English Channel. I saw only a speckling of Fulmars. I finally got an anticipated species today, a single GREATER SHEARWATER. The white base of the tail above and below was very diagnostic. I saw three other species that were probably European birds but I had not the slightest knowledge of their real identity. I hope to get a book on European birds if possible. One was as large as a Herring Gull with a white head and breast and a dark back, while another was about the size and shape of a Least Tern but somewhat differently colored. Still another species resembled a Sparrow Hawk but had a longer tail. I couldn't see any of its colors. I'm really sorry I don't have my movie camera yet. I could have used up

several rolls and had some real interesting shots. Well, I ran up a total of seven North American lifers and I know I'll get to see quite a few European species in my two and one half years in France. Of course I'll do a little traveling whenever I get leave.

October 7: Today we entered the English Channel. Here is where I felt like a beginner in bird watching. I saw at least fifteen new European species today but all I could do was look at them without giving them a name. Several birds looked exactly like GANNETS, although I don't know whether they're supposed to be out here (they are--Ed.). I saw several other birds that flew and looked exactly like Robins, but I didn't see any color on them. I saw some weird looking gulls and terns and quite a few land birds flying alongside the ship. Seeing all these birds and not having a book to check their names is driving me nuts. I think I did pretty good with the oceanic species.

We are expecting to arrive in Bremerhaven, Germany, tomorrow. There is a place on the ship, I believe, where I can mail this letter and another that I wrote to Ralph Cambre. I hope I didn't bore you with this letter. I put in the information I thought was best. Well, I really enjoyed writing this account and I'm sure you are the kind of guy who would enjoy reading it. My address below is my permanent one for the remainder of my two and one half years in the service. I'd appreciate it if you would send my LOS News here instead of to my home. Those L.S.U. Tigers are really on top this year but they had better watch out for Tennessee and Ole Miss. Well, so long with the latest news.

A friend always,
s/Ronald

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