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OUISIANA
RNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



No. 37

Natchitoches, La.

December 21, 1964

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After that frantic effort to organize material for a brief newsletter and plan a fall meeting, I thought I could just relax and enjoy birding this year. However, our nominating committee decided to "reward" me for my work. My next attempt to shirk this writing chore was to delegate the Editorial task to our very capable VP. Now he requests that I contribute news, so I guess there's no escape.

Our fall meeting at Cameron, Nov. 7-8 was highly successful despite the hasty arrangements. Attendance was slightly below that of recent meetings, but there were 51 names on the register at Fred's. The weather was warm and sunny (after a very rainy Friday) and the mosquitoes were relatively scarce. We tallied a very fine list of birds as you'll see elsewhere in the NEWS. The concentrations of waterfowl were particularly spectacular since our meeting preceded the hunting season and the birds were remarkably tame.

In the absence of Steve Russell, your current president presided at the Saturday night meeting. Sidney Gauthreaux read the check list and has prepared a resume of the highlights. Jean Lowery read the Treasurers report supplied by Mrs. Bodman. We dispensed with the minutes of the last

meeting. Hugh Land then discussed the amendments to the by-laws that were reported in our last NEWS. They were approved unanimously. George Lowery presented the Nominating Committee's selection of officers. They were approved without opposition.

Christmas bird counts were discussed next. Last year, our Shreveport birders compiled the only Christmas count in the state. We plan to better this year. John Gee will be in charge of a Cameron count on December 27, Sidney will lead a count at Venice on January 3. If any members are interested in participating, contact John or Sidney, pronto. If any of you are interested in a count at St. Francisville, contact Gayle Strickland.

Our spring meeting is planned for the week-end of April 24-25 at Cameron. You might also check the week-end of April 3-4 on your calendar. We're planning another get-together at Chicot State Park. Those of us who attended last year felt that it was a great success; a good chance to explore a new birding area and to get acquainted with other members. There will be more information on this trip in the next NEWS.

George Lowery suggested a trip to Yucca-

tan. Perhaps he was being a bit facetious, but he is now a one-man committee to investigate the approximate cost if a group is interested in flying there for a week of fabulous birding and sight-seeing.

Following the regular meeting, our new Executive Committee met to discuss plans for the coming year. We hope to vitalize and expand the LOS activities if members are interested. If the Chicot trip is a big success, we will plan others. The Exec. Committee appointed Hugh Land editor of the NEWS, with Sidney as his assistant. We hope that all members will contribute news to Hugh and will write to any of the officers concerning ideas for improving LOS functions.

Don't forget your dues! Send your \$1.00 to our Secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Ralph (Barbara) Bodman, 9555 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809.

Ralph Andrews

EXIT THE BROWN PELICAN

An Article which appeared in the September TEXAS GAME AND FISH contained several interesting comments on our state bird:

"Disappearance of brown pelicans from the shores of Texas and Louisiana has aroused the concern of national and area ornithologists, marine biologists, and even those engaged in tourist promotions. Not a single bird has been hatched by this species in Texas this year, and probably not one in Louisiana. . . The exit of this colorful, performing bird from the shores of the Gulf of Mexico has been a delayed shock to residents and tourists alike. The exit started about five or six years ago. . . 'Widespread use of agricultural pesticides is, no doubt, a contributing factor,' says Dr. Henry H. Hildebrandt, marine biologist of the University of Corpus Christi. 'This is indicated by the number of dead birds that have been found, and apparent failure of the eggs to hatch. Pesticides, like endrin and dieldrin are

found in the bodies of fish. Pelicans eat the fish. The poisons get into the eggs, and kill the embryonic young. Scientific data show that many species of birds are threatened by the ingestion of these toxic substances.' . . . There appears to be little present danger, however, of their total extinction because they range all along the coast of South America as far south as Brazil. We have no information on survival factors in South and Central America, but changes have been less rapid than in the United States, and the presumption is that the species is not seriously threatened there." Cash Asher

Until such time as we can clean up our polluted waters there is little chance of the Brown Pelican re-establishing itself in Louisiana. The philosophical approach might be to give some thought to the selection of a new state bird. However, maybe we should not give up yet but should help in any sincere efforts that are being made to reduce industrial and chemical pollution of our rivers and streams.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

We are hoping to run in each issue of the LOS NEWS an account of the activities of birding or nature groups in all parts of the state. This issue will contain only the information that the editor could glean locally, however. If you would like your group activities reported in this column please write and tell us what you are doing. The deadline for submission of material for the next NEWS is March 1. Send to: Hugh C. Land, Department of Biological Sciences, Northwestern State College, Natchitoches, Louisiana.

AUDUBON SOCIETY ORGANIZED IN NATCHITOCHEs. Interest in birds, conservation and Audubon membership was repeatedly expressed by individuals in various civic group meetings in Natchitoches. Two or three people had discussed the desire to have a local Audubon Society several times between 1962 and 1964. Some of the professors in the Biology Department at Northwestern State College were contacted. They expressed interest

and were willing to help organize a local society.

An organizational meeting was held on May 14, 1964, with eight people present. The group planned weekly field trips and monthly meetings. National Audubon was contacted for information and assistance and a publicity and membership campaign was undertaken.

Meetings have been held regularly since with programs on equipment needed for bird watching, the work of the Federal Fish Hatchery at Natchitoches discussed by Don Driscoll, shore bird identification by Bob LaVal, and the "Sights and Sounds of the Caribbean Lowlands" by Hugh Land. The newspapers have been most generous and cooperative in carrying announcements, and even feature stories with pictures, publicizing these events.

Bird walks have been carried out almost every week, with from 4 to 32 people participating. The members believe that the regular walks have been a great asset in building interest in the society.

Programs this winter include: an illustrated lecture on "Wild Flowers of the South," by Mrs. Harry Meek of Little Rock, Arkansas; Landscape Planting to Attract Birds, a lecture and demonstration by Mrs. W. M. Boydstrum, Natchitoches Parish Home Demonstration Agent; Building Bird Houses and Feeding Stations; and Hugh Land's new Guatemalan film, "Out of the Selva."

The group has adopted By-laws suggested by the National Audubon Society and plans to affiliate with NAS in the spring. Though the Natchitoches Audubon Society is only six months old it is already well known and respected in the community. The Northwestern State College Library and the Parish Library are cooperating by ordering special books. At the request of the society the mayor of Natchitoches is putting into effect an old ordinance declaring the city a bird sanctuary. Perhaps the best evidence of the success of the group is that nearly 20% of the people attending the last LOS meeting were from Natchitoches.

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NEW LOS OFFICERS

President: Ralph Andrews, 521 Alondo Drive, Lafayette.
 Vice President: Hugh C. Land, Dept. of Biological Sciences, NSC, Natchitoches.
 Secretary-treasurer: Mrs. Ralph Bodman, 9555 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge.
 Director, three year term, Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr., Museum of Zoology, LSU, Baton Rouge.
 Director, two year term, Gayle Strickland, 1744 Brocade Drive, Baton Rouge.
 Director, one year term, Charles Payne, 949 Terry Lane, Lake Charles.

CHRISTMAS CENSUS

After a lean year in 1963 with only one Christmas Census taken in the state we have a variety to choose from this year. They are being held in all parts of the state so pick whichever count you wish, put on some warm clothes, grab your check list and pencil, and sally forth into the field. Actually before you go it might be better to check with one of the people below so they can assign you a choice area.

Cameron - Sunday, December 27 - contact John Gee, 6120 Carlisle Court, New Orleans 14.

Venice - Sunday, January 3 - contact Sidney Gauthreaux, address given above.

St. Francisville - not determined - contact Gayle Strickland, 1744 Brocade Drive, Baton Rouge.

Shreveport - don't know - contact James R. Stewart, 2225 Meriwether Road, Shreveport.

Natchitoches - January 2 or 3 - contact Bob LaVal, 320 Sirod Street, Natchitoches.



CAMERON FALL MEETING

by

Sidney Gauthreaux

On the 7th and 8th of November the Louisiana Ornithological Society held its regular fall meeting in the town of Cameron. Saturday and Sunday were largely devoted to field work in Cameron Parish and an amazing total of 183 species were reported on those two days (169 species were recorded on Saturday only).

Below is a list of the birds recorded in Cameron Parish on that weekend. The birds that were missed Saturday but recorded on Sunday are underlined. The noteworthy species are in capital letters.

Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Olivaceous Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, REDDISH EGRET, Common Egret, Snowy Egret, Louisiana Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, White-faced Ibis, White Ibis, White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Blue Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Mottled Duck, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, SURF SCOTER, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite, King Rail, Clapper Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Piping Plover, Wilson's Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Common Snipe, Long-billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, STILT SANDPIPER, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Laughing Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Forster's Tern, Common Tern, Royal Tern, Caspian Tern, Black Skim-

mer, Rock Dove, WHITE-WINGED DOVE, Mourning Dove, Ground Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, GROOVE-BILLED ANI, Barn Owl, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, CASSIN'S KINGBIRD, Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee, Vermilion Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Fish Crow, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Winter Wren, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, SAGE THRASHER, Robin, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Solitary Vireo, RED-EYED VIREO, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, AUDUBON'S WARBLER, Black-throated Green Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, Boat-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, SCARLET TANAGER, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
GOOD BIRDING IN 1965