

LOUISIANA
ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



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Baton Rouge, La.

November 18, 1965

THE PRESIDENT REPORTS

Our president, Ralph Andrews, has now departed from the state in keeping with what seems to be a tradition with the LOS. We wish Ralph well at his new post and express our gratitude to him for his many contributions to the society. Your editor is especially grateful for the many long and informative reports Ralph provided for the NEWS, including the one below.—Editor

Your president neglected to assign anyone the task of recording minutes, so he will have to reconstruct what happened from some penciled notes on the back of an envelope.

The spring outing was held at Cameron on the weekend of April 24-25. The weather was delightful, but perhaps a bit too nice to concentrate masses of trans-Gulf migrants. Birding was a bit slow Saturday. Warblers seemed particularly scarce. However, there seemed to be a noticeable improvement on Sunday and those who went to the East Jetty woods were rewarded by some fine observations in excellent light. As so frequently happens, Sidney Gauthreaux again took honors for "bird-of-the-day." He and Bill Palmisano, in company with Jim Stewart, Mary Lewis, and Horace Jeter, collected a Long-tailed Jaeger at the West

Jetty. Another state record! The boys staged a dramatic presentation just after the check list had been read. They kindly allowed the specimen to be passed around for the benefit of incredulous disbelievers. Somewhere, the specimen disappeared and it seemed for a time that some hungry birder had mistaken it for a broiled flounder. However, it merely had been pilfered by a green-eyed colleague.

The banquet and meeting Saturday night was attended by 75 persons, probably a record. The president opened the meeting while most members still were awaiting their meals. After a few introductory remarks, he gave a brief report on the Chicot Park weekend. The minutes of the spring meeting were accepted as summarized in the NEWS. George Lowery then read a report on the Treasury Balance as prepared by Mrs. Bodman. George also stated that no progress has been made on the proposed LOS trip to Yucatan.

John Gee read the check-list and was noting the highlights when Sidney and Bill stole the show. The president then announced the awarding of a \$200 research grant from our special fund to Sidney Gauthreaux. The need for a replacement on the special

fund committee was noted and a motion from the floor was passed to replace Steve Russell with the director of longest tenure. The committee now consists of the LOS president, the senior director, and Dr. George Lowery. The president next appointed a Nominations Committee with John Gee as chairman and George Lowery and Charles Payne as members.

The next announcement was sad news for long-time Cameron birders. Mrs. Faulk will no longer operate the Cameron Hotel and it seems probable that the starting point for so many good days of bird-watching will cease to be. This presents a real problem for the LOS. Accommodations are limited in Cameron and the rustic old Hotel always seemed to have an infinite capacity to absorb those who came without reservations. It was particularly welcome to students who could not afford the higher priced motels.

The program was a "double-header" and each portion was the equal of any previous program. Hugh Land showed his marvelous new film on Guatemala that is scheduled for the Audubon Screen Tours. After we were all itching to travel south, Sidney brought us back to Louisiana with waves of migrating birds, as seen on the radar-scope at Lake Charles. His selected slides and movies, along with his knowledgeable interpretation, were fascinating and we hope he can show more this fall. Despite the length of the meeting, following a long day of birding, there were few sleepy members after this fine program.

Ralph Andrews

CHICOT PARK WEEKEND

On the weekend of April 2-4, thirty members and children had a most enjoyable stay at Chicot State Park. This was relaxed birding (one could tally many species singing outside the cabin without even getting out of bed!). Birders hiked the scenic foot-trails at any desired time or pace and some members paddled boats or canoes into wooded coves for close views of wood ducks, anhingas and other water birds. Perhaps the highlights were a Swallow-tailed Kite circling low over the cabins, a tremendous

flight of Broad-winged Hawks and a flock of at least 400 Buff-breasted Sandpipers in one field near Miller's Lake. A total of 115 species was recorded.

Saturday night, members helped Margaret Land prepare a real tasty spaghetti dinner. After Bob LaVal read the check-list, Grace Eyster unpacked a veritable library of recent books on birds and gave us a marvelous review of selected books (their annotated bibliography is included in this NEWS). It's a shame that more members weren't there to enjoy it. Afterwards, your president showed slides of shorebirds, terns, frigatebirds, etc. taken near Cameron on the Chandeleurs.

Ralph Andrews

NEWS OF MEMBERS

At the spring meeting, your president announced with regret that he would be transferred from Louisiana to Maryland in July. He hopes that his work with the Fish and Wildlife Service will bring him back to Louisiana at least occasionally. He leaves with fond memories of good birding and good birders. If any of you are in Washington, D. C. area, contact him for a tour of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center at Laurel, Maryland, where he will be working.

Now, the transfer jinx has struck our Executive Committee again. This time, our stalwart Lake Charles "fixtures," the Paynes. Charles and Yvonne have departed for a three year tour of duty in Regina, Saskatchewan. We hope they'll let us know what it's like to have a Christmas bird count at 30 below. (At any rate, the mosquitoes shouldn't be bad.)

Along with the bad news is some good news. Two former officers that had departed for California have found that they just couldn't stay away. Both Horace Jeter and Larry O'Meallie have returned to Louisiana. We are certainly happy to have both of these fine students and friends back in our midst.

WELCOME BACK

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS**REGULAR:**

1. Mr. Edward Boudreaux
1240 Seville Drive
New Orleans, La.
2. Mr. David M. Bray
Box 192
Many, Louisiana
3. Mr. A. M. Carver
P. O. Box 643
Ferriday, La.
4. Dr. A. L. Culpepper
1037 Edgewood Drive
Pineville, La.
5. Miss Fran Guchereau
103 Leroy Street
Pineville, La.
6. Mr. C. E. Harrison
P. O. Box 324
Tioga, La. 71477
7. Mr. James A. Haw
306 East Market St.
Charleston, Missouri
8. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Heyward
Piney Branch Road
Bogalusa, La.
9. Mr. Robert G. Jernigan
1111 Cambronne Street
New Orleans, La. 70118
10. Mr. Robert A. Meade
220 West Ardenwood Drive
Baton Rouge, La.
11. Mr. Albert W. Metcalfe
#1 Oak Court
Natchez, Mississippi
12. Mrs. H. A. Miller
311 Lakeside Drive
Monroe, Louisiana

13. Miss Pamela Mire
125 Prairie Avenue
New Iberia, La.
14. Mrs. Richard Mire
125 Prairie Avenue
New Iberia, La.
15. Mrs. Erna C. Richter
1319 Numa Street
New Orleans, La. 70114
16. Dr. Raymond Schiffman
1125 North Texas Street
De Ridder, La. 70634
17. Mrs. Ana V. Suberville
4217 Orleans Avenue
New Orleans, La.
18. Mrs. K. K. Woodley
853 Robinson Place
Shreveport, Louisiana

EX-MEMBERS ???

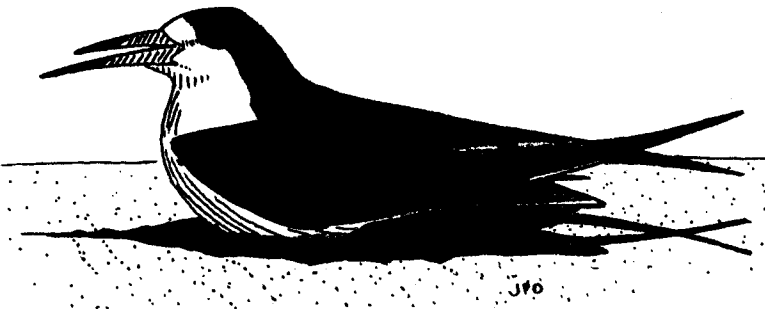
Our Secretary-Treasurer has informed me that 53 members are in arrears in their dues, some for two years. Much as we hate to see any members drop from the ranks, it seems that a couple reminders and a year's time should suffice. If we don't hear from you, we must assume that you no longer are interested in belonging to our group.

In paying your 1966 dues please furnish Mrs. Bodman, our Secretary-Treasurer, with your Zip Code number.

NEWS OF BIRDS

On May 7, Tom Eyster and his ornithology students were studying shorebirds in the rice fields west of Lafayette when they chanced upon a flock of 26 Hudsonian Godwits. This is one of our least common shorebirds and rarely observed in Louisiana. The news media heard about the find and requested a story. It made the front page

of the Sunday edition of the Lafayette Advertiser and was subsequently reproduced in other papers. Of course, Tom received all sorts of interesting comments. Among them was a fellow who claims they nest in his fields, another said they were only "kill-dees" and a third wondered if they were good to eat. Despite such comments, I think there's a good lesson for LOS members. There is a wide-spread general interest in birds that we often overlook. Perhaps we should all be prepared to report interesting findings to the press. At any rate, please do report your discoveries to our editor; he's hungry for news!



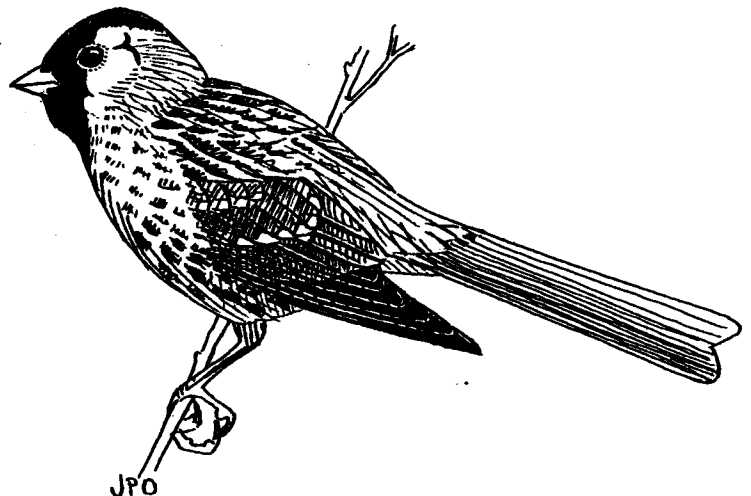
Speaking of news, reports on the Brown Pelican remain distressingly bad. Recently, Sandy Sprunt of the National Audubon Society conducted a rather intensive aerial survey of wading-bird colonies along the Louisiana and Texas coasts. During that survey, he saw no pelicans in Louisiana and only 8 birds and two nests in Texas. The Christmas bird counts disclose not a single pelican record along the Gulf coast from Tampa, Florida to Brownsville, Texas. In addition, there is an indication of lower counts in South Florida. I have a couple recent reports of sightings along the Mississippi coast. In all probability, these are nonnesting, subadults that range widely in summer. If you should be fortunate enough to see pelicans this summer, take care to record how many are in adult plumage.

There were high hopes for successful production of offspring by the Whooping Cranes in Audubon Park Zoo this spring. We now know that there are four males and three females. Three pairs were isolated in newly-constructed pens and indulged in

active courtship displays. However, only Josephine laid eggs and her output was a mere three compared to ten last year. None of the eggs hatched. Let's hope for better success next year. NOTE! Josephine died in Audubon Park Zoo after a tough round with Hurricane Betsy. The park attendants believe that the excitement was too great for the bird to cope with. Grip, Josephine's mate, apparently survived the storm with only minor injuries.

There has been renewed interest in rare and vanishing wildlife of late. Both private and government agencies now are doing more than just talking. Recently, the World Wildlife Fund provided money for the acquisition of a sizeable tract of grassland near Eagle Lake, Texas, which may be the last hope for the Attwater's Prairie Chicken, once common on the Louisiana prairies. Congress has now enacted Legislation to provide for a Rare and Endangered Wildlife program within the Fish and Wildlife Service. A center for the propagation of certain species will be established at Laurel, Maryland. The late Congressman, T. A. Thompson, from Louisiana's 7th district, served as Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Wildlife and Fisheries and was an important advocate of this program.

Hugh Land



HODGES GARDENS MEETING

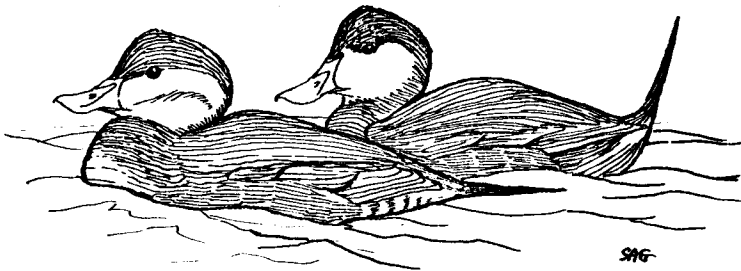
The LOS and the Natchitoches Audubon Society met at Hodges Gardens south of Many, Louisiana, Friday evening through Sunday morning, October 1-3. The Gardens are a refuge and bird sanctuary as well as a botanical area. Bird walks were held in the arboretum and around the lake shore. Participants watched an Osprey pluck a fish out of the lake. Apparently the Ospreys breed in the Gardens. Other species of birds were seen, over 50 in all, including some fall warblers, notably the Nashville. Evening programs included movies and recordings of bird songs, plus games to test the "bird quotient" of the members. The weekend was planned by members of the Natchitoches Audubon Society, Mrs. Kenneth Hackney president. Participants, 32 in all, came from as far away as Homer to the north and Houma and New Orleans to the south.

Hugh Land

especially interested in bird photography Mr. Bazet might be willing to describe and perhaps show some of the unique aids he has developed. Since accommodations will be limited, members who do not plan to bird on Sunday might stay in the Lake Charles area on Friday night, then bird their way down to Cameron on Saturday, returning to Lake Charles after the evening program. Camps and cabins are also available at Holly Beach; inquiry can be made at the grocery stores or gas stations. The camps are quite inexpensive for groups, costing around a dollar per person in groups of ten or more sleeping dormitory style. If it is convenient, drop by Fred's Restaurant during the day to register and indicate your preference for the evening meal. A variety of seafoods and other dinners are available. This is also a convenient place to obtain breakfast and lunch though no group meeting is planned for these meals.

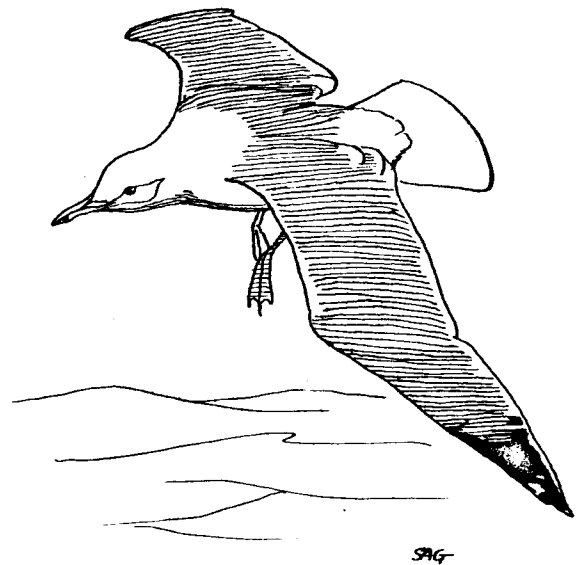
Hugh Land

**SEE YOU IN CAMERON
4 DECEMBER**



1965 FALL MEETING

After some debate it has been decided that the fall meeting of the LOS should be held again in the Cameron area. Despite the closing of the hotel we believe that the town can accommodate our group. Saturday, DECEMBER 4 will be spent in the field. Members who are new to this area and would like a guided tour to the better birding places should meet at 8:00 a.m. Saturday at Fred's Restaurant on the main street in Cameron. Dr. Hugh Land will lead a morning walk for this group. Dinner and the evening program will be held at Fred's starting at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Randolph Bazet of Houma will show us some of his excellent bird slides as the feature of the evening. For those



An Annotated Bibliography
of Recent Bird Books of General Interest

Arthur, Stanley Clisby. AUDUBON. New Orleans: Harmanson. 1937.

There are many Audubon biographies but this one tends to give a more complete, detailed and authenticated account of his life. In some instances actual quotations from Audubon's letters, papers and memoirs are used. Photographs of his studio and home in New Orleans are included. The index will permit you to read those parts which are concerned with Louisiana.

Austin, Oliver L. BIRDS OF THE WORLD. New York: Golden Press. 1961.

A popular book which has sold well primarily because of the beautiful illustrations by Arthur Singer and the reputation of Dr. Austin. Unfortunately there are literally hundreds of small errors (most of these are unimportant to the average reader) consequently the book is now selling at a reduced price. A revision will obviously be carefully proofed before final printing. The format is attractive and the price reasonable.

Barruel, Paul. BIRDS OF THE WORLD. New York: Oxford Univ. Press. 1954.

The photographs and colored illustrations of birds from all parts of the world accompany a text which is mainly concerned with the daily activities of these birds. This translation from the French tends to point out some of the unusual nesting activities, modes of courtship and interesting behaviorisms in the bird world. The index will facilitate exploring a specific topic. The pictures alone make this book worthy of at least a perfunctory examination.

Bent, Arthur Cleveland. LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN MARSH BIRDS. New York: Dover. 1963.

Dover Publications has undertaken to reissue the works of Arthur Bent which were published, starting in 1919, as Bulletins from the Smithsonian Institute. The life histories include nesting, food, habits, eggs, plumages, enemies, courtship, range and actual quotations from observers in the field. Of course much information has been gathered since their original publication but they are still interesting historically. There are a number of the Life Histories that have been reprinted to date. Since the information is extensive, there are twenty volumes in the series. If you examine a single copy you will be cognizant of the style of all the others.

Bronson, Wilfrid S. STARLINGS. New York: Harcourt, Brace. 1948.

The author has succeeded in packing in so much excellent material on birds in a slim book designed for children that this stands as an all-time classic. The illustrations and text are clever, amusing and delightfully ingenious. If you are anywhere between 8 and 80 this book warrants a few minutes of your time.

Brown, Leslie. THE MYSTERY OF THE FLAMINGOS. London: Country Life Limited. 1959.

Leslie Brown has produced a work about the flamingos in South Africa which has large quantities of danger, suspense, original deductions, bird lore, adventure, and humor. Highly recommended.

Cruickshank, Allan D. WINGS IN THE WILDERNESS. New York: Oxford Univ. Press. 1947.

This was one of the earlier books to be made up almost exclusively of photographs. Mr. Cruickshank selected 125 excellent black and white photographs and accompanied each with a short paragraph relative to the bird pictured. His high standards are revealed in the artistic perfection of the plates.

Darling, Lois and Louis. BIRD. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. 1962.

The book is almost specifically designed for birdwatchers who want to go beyond the identification stage. Should you be interested in the broad principles of bird life in relation to evolution, behavior and anatomy then this book is aptly suited for your purposes. The nonspecialist will find the Darlings can convey a great deal of pertinent information in a most palatable fashion.

de Schauensee, R. Meyer. THE BIRDS OF COLOMBIA. Narberth, Pa.: Livingston. 1964.

An insight into the vast assortment of birds in South America. Their unusual habits and spectacular coloration combined with their vast numbers make this book remarkable. The author is Curator of Ornithology in Philadelphia and a recognized authority on the birds of Colombia.

Dorst, Jean. THE MIGRATIONS OF BIRDS. Cambridge: Houghton-Mifflin. 1962.

Migration continues to be an amazing phenomenon. It is rather astounding to realize that the American Golden Plover apparently flies 2400 miles nonstop from Labrador to Brazil. Various aspects of the migratory phenomenon are discussed in conjunction with the most recent observations and investigations. Numerous drawings and maps reinforce the text.

Fisher, James, and Roger Tory Peterson. **THE WORLD OF BIRDS.** Garden City: Doubleday. 1964.

Biology, evolution, distribution maps, migration, behavior, techniques of bird watching and the relationship of bird and man written by two of the world's most famous ornithologists. The paintings by the co-author need no introduction to bird watchers; the quality is always unsurpassed. An expensive book but filled with colored illustrations and world distribution maps. Even a superficial examination will prove rewarding.

Gilliard, E. Thomas. **LIVING BIRDS OF THE WORLD.** Garden City: Doubleday. 1958.

A general survey of the birds of the world enhanced with essential descriptions and splendid photographs in black-and-white and color. For each family the author has given the chief characteristics, and the range, in addition to outstanding or specially interesting items of information.

Greenewalt, Crawford H. **HUMMINGBIRDS.** Garden City: American Museum of Natural History. 1960.

A photographic first, an artistic triumph, a pictorial monograph and an example of ultra high speed photography. The author is one of America's top industrial executives and he combined time, money and advanced technological methods with extreme patience to secure these remarkable photographs. The ones in the text were selected from 15,000 transparencies. An expensive book well worth examining at your leisure.

Gromme, Owen J. **BIRDS OF WISCONSIN.** Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin Press. 1964.

For a period of twenty years the author has drawn the birds of Wisconsin and this work consists of a series of fine colored plates accompanied by distribution maps. The majority of birds illustrated would also be found in Louisiana.

Hall, Henry Marion. **A GATHERING OF SHORE BIRDS.** New York: Devin-Adair. 1960.

Delightful reading in that there is a judicious blending of the scientific with the popular. The drawings (95 in number) were done by John Henry Dick who is best known for his "Warblers of America."

Heinroth, Oskar and Katharina. **THE BIRDS.** Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press. 1958.

A paperback with a highly recommended text, good quality paper, some illustrations and an inexpensive price tag. This will hold your interest even though you are not 'gung ho' on the subject of ornithology. The mental powers of birds, how birds

communicate with each other, hybrids, and keeping clean are only a few of the subjects discussed by these two prominent German zoologists.

Ligon, J. Stokley. **NEW MEXICO BIRDS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM.** Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press. 1961.

If one is considering a trip to New Mexico it might be useful to include this helpful book. The author includes bird watching regions and describes the size, location and topography of each in conjunction with the birds one might expect to see. Not useful for identification purposes since the format is designed more for reference, although 34 colored plates would prove to be helpful.

Verrill, A. Hyatt. **STRANGE BIRDS AND THEIR STORIES.** Boston: Page. 1938.

Not a recent publication but one which gleaned the ornithological literature for the mysteries, the puzzles and the unusual in bird lore. Some of the author's statements are in need of revision but this would be expected considering the publication date.

Krutch, Joseph Wood and Paul S. Eriksson. **A TREASURY OF BIRDLORE.** Garden City: Doubleday. 1962.

Consider this work as a gift for a bird watching friend or for yourself. There are 83 selections covering the gamut of ornithology. Some selections cover twelve pages, others are so brief as to be read in 15 minutes. The anthology includes, among others, the work of Robert Newman, Ludlow Griscom, A. C. Bent, John James Audubon, Edwin Way Teale, John Muir, Rachel Carson and Roger Tory Peterson.

Lowery, George H. **LOUISIANA BIRDS.** Baton Rouge: LSU Press. 1960.

To members of the LOS this is so well known that an annotation is superfluous. This is practically a mandatory possession for all bird watchers in Louisiana.

Murphy, Robert Cushman and Dean Amadon. **LAND BIRDS OF AMERICA.** New York: McGraw-Hill. 1953.

Even were it not for numerous black and white illustrations and 221 excellent color plates this work would stand solidly on its own. The authors are knowledgeable and erudite without being pedantic.

Palmer, Ralph. **HANDBOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.** Vol. 1. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press. 1962.

Sponsored by the American Ornithologists' Union and the New York State Museum this monumental work utilizes material which has appeared in scattered journals to form a compendium on the birds found North of Mexico. The first volume concerns itself with the loons through the flamingos. The phylogenetic sequence will be followed and each species will be discussed in relatively nontechnical terminology. The extensive scope of this reference book is remarkable.

Peterson, Roger Tory. **THE BIRDS.** New York: Time Incorporated. 1963.

A bargain at twice its modest price. This book is part of the Life Natural Library series. Recommended unreservedly.

Peterson, Roger Tory. **THE BIRD WATCHER'S ANTHOLOGY.** New York: Harcourt, Brace. 1957.

When one considers the vast quantity of ornithological literature and ones limitations and inclinations to read them, it tends to discourage rather than encourage the average reader. This collection of eighty five selections from naturalists range from Audubon and Darwin to Murphy and Sutton. Most of the selections are of general interest and reveal the special enthusiasm and delight of the contributing authors.

Pettingill, Eleanor Rice. **PENGUIN SUMMER.** New York: Potter. 1960.

In October, 1953, Dr. and Mrs. Pettingill headed for the Falkland Islands in order to photograph penguins for Walt Disney Productions. A visit to the Falklands had been a goal of Olin's for 20 years. (It is the only place in the world where one may photograph penguins and still be near to a town.) A delightful book filled with the amusing, instructive, intimate and sometimes dangerous experiences of a pair of intrepid ornithological photographers.

Rand, Austin. **AMERICAN WATER AND GAME BIRDS.** New York: Dutton. 1956.

An informative text combined with 168 unsurpassed colored photographs. The author is an active ornithologist and speaks with authority and scientific accuracy.

Reichert, Robert J. and Elsa. **BINOCULARS AND SCOPES.** Philadelphia: Chilton Co. 1960.

By rights, this book does not categorically fit in with the others on this list, but it is an invaluable guide to the use, selection and care of binoculars.

Saunders, Aretas A. A GUIDE TO BIRD SONGS. Garden City: Doubleday. 1951.

A diagrammatic system of representing bird songs which does not necessitate one being able to read music. Also included is a concise description of each bird. Although purported to be a clear and simple method it may prove to be rather difficult to use.

Sutton, George Miksch. ICELAND SUMMER. Norman: Univ. of Oklahoma Press. 1961.

Even if unfamiliar with the remarkable ornithological illustrations of the author, one will be carried along on an enterprise tinged with discovery, humor, and adventure. The author writes of his new experiences with an informal and highly personal style which reflect the way of life in Iceland and the idiosyncracies of bird watchers in general.

Tinbergen, Niko. THE HERRING GULL'S WORLD. New York: Basic Books. 1960.

Tinbergen worked with Konrad Lorenz and his material in this erudite book reflects that association. The monograph is a detailed study of social behavior and the result of experiments, deductions and extended periods of close observation.

Welty, Joel Carl. THE LIFE OF BIRDS. New York: Knopf. 1963.

One of the most informative books you could use for bird biology since it has an extensive index and covers the field with a limited amount of technical discussion. It is not necessary that one possess an extensive background to read this but neither is it to be read from cover to cover unless you are a student of ornithology. Subjects you will find included are biological barriers, population densities, colors of eggs, color in birds, and nest construction, among countless others.

Zahl, Paul A. FLAMINGO HUNT. New York: Bobbs-Merril. 1952.

Although the author is a distinguished scientist, noted writer and learned scholar he has the ability of writing with skill for the layman. In this book he recounts his adventures in the Bahamas hunting for the wary, elusive and rapidly diminishing flamingo.

Zim, Herbert S. and Ira N. Gabrielson. BIRDS. New York: Simon and Schuster. 1960.

A small dollar field guide which is part of the Golden Nature series. A book suitable for children to 'begin on'.

Prepared for the LOS by Grace L. and Marshall B. Eyster. (1965).