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LOUISIANA  
ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY



No. 22

Thibodaux, Louisiana

March 30, 1960

## GREETINGS ~

—from your new officers elected at the Annual Fall Meeting of the LOS held at Cameron, Louisiana 28 November 1959.

- President. Ava R. Tabor  
305 Canal Blvd.  
Thibodaux, Louisiana
- Vice-President Buford M. Myers  
2104 Gen. Pershing St.  
New Orleans, Louisiana
- Sec.-Treas. Jean Lowery  
6255 Chandler Drive  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Directors P. Ambrose Daigre  
Museum of Natural Science  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Katherine M. Hearne  
1029 Delaware St.  
Shreveport, Louisiana
- Mary Lewis  
925 Dauphine St.  
New Orleans, Louisiana



Tommy Pugh dropped in the other day looking fit and fine and twice as tall as when he first joined the LOS. "There certainly was a big improvement in the LOS NEWS last year," said Tommy, "except for one thing - why wasn't there any Lil' Orphan Ani?"

Orphan Ani?"

We couldn't answer. All we know is that Ani suddenly disappeared in the shuffle when the editorial offices moved to Shreveport. Anyway, Tommy, Rita Gee, Stu Warter, and Joe Melancon—three conspirators who have never met—have looked into the matter and arranged for:

### THE RETURN OF

#### LIL' ORPHAN ANI



Somebody up there doesn't like me!

This reminds us of a fine piece of news. Tommy has since left for Washington to attend the White House Youth Conference as one of 8 delegates from Louisiana. He also has won first place in a five-parish Science Rally with a talk on bird migration!

## REPORT ON THE 1959 FALL MEETING

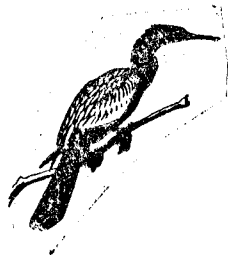
BY JOHN P. GEE

The 1959 Annual Fall Meeting was a great success. We met in Cameron November 28-29 and thoroughly enjoyed both the field trips and traditional Saturday night dinner meeting. Some 40 members were present. All sections of our state were well represented, and some members came from neighboring states. We enjoyed meeting Ineka Goosen of Holland and were glad to see Rudy Rudolph, who was on vacation from his Fish and Wildlife Service job at Atlanta. New members included Mr. and Mrs. Kent E. Myers; Kent is Manager of the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge. Being together with old friends, and meeting new ones, is what makes these annual meetings so much fun.

Our President Jim Stewart was unable to attend, as he and his wife were momentarily expecting the stork. The meeting was left in the capable hands of Ava Tabor, our 1959 Vice-president. In another section of this issue you will find Jean Lowery's Secretary's Report of the meeting, which includes election of officers for 1960 and several important items of business. The meeting concluded with a showing of Ethel Jones' delightful color slides taken during the A. O. U. meeting at Saskatchewan and on vacation trips to the Great Smokies.

The principal field trip was held on Saturday, but since the meeting covered Thanksgiving weekend, some members were in Cameron 3 or 4 full days. Coastal areas were well explored, and according to my notes at least 183 species were recorded. Some of the more interesting records included:

Anhinga  
Fulvous Tree Duck  
Common Merganser  
Swainson's Hawk  
Harlan's Hawk  
Bald Eagle  
Stilt Sandpiper  
Marbled Godwit  
White-winged Dove  
Groove-billed Ani  
Chuck-will's-widow



Lesser Nighthawk  
Vermilion Flycatcher  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
Barn Swallow  
Parula Warbler  
Black-throated Gray Warbler  
Blackburnian Warbler  
Bullock's Oriole  
Pine Siskin  
Lark Sparrow  
Harris's Sparrow


The Swainson's Hawk, a beautiful bird in light phase, has been accepted by Dr. Lowery as a new state record. It was not collected, but many persons watched it soaring low over the woods near Johnsons Bayou. As Saturday was brisk and bright and a perfect day for soaring, large Buteos and other hawks were much in evidence. Cameron Parish appears to be inundated with Groove-billed Anis; large flocks were found at Johnsons Bayou and near Willow Island and a total of 50 individuals were seen on November 28 and 29. Mac Myers collected a nighthawk behind the courthouse and this bird proved to be a Lesser when compared with museum specimens. At least five Vermilion Flycatchers were found. Cattle Egrets were widely distributed somewhat to the south of their previous normal range.

### NEW EXHIBIT UNDER CONSTRUCTION



A two-ton Nuttall's Oak, furnished through the kindness of Erle Barham of Oak Ridge, La., arrived at the Museum of Natural Science in October. Now considerably reduced in weight, though not in visible size, it has been installed in the alcove that will contain the new VIRGIN HARDWOOD BOTTOMLAND SWAMP scene featuring Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, deer, Fox Squirrels, and a Rattlesnake. Ambrose Daigre has already nearly completed the painted background scene. He estimates that at least 7000 artificial leaves will be required to complete this habitat group.

# MINUTES OF 1959



## FALL MEETING BY JEAN LOWERY

The annual fall meeting of the Louisiana Ornithological Society was held at Cameron on November 28, 1959. After spending the day in the field, the group assembled for dinner at Fred's restaurant. The actual business session was called to order by Vice-President Ava Tabor.

The Treasurer's report was as follows:

Balance on hand on December 6, 1958	\$629.07
Income	
Dues	318.25
Receipts from sale of "Check-list" and "Occurrence Charts"	18.86
Disbursements	
La. State University Press for copies of LOUISIANA BIRDS for Cameron Parish libraries destroyed by hurricane	27.54
Reimbursement to LSU Museum for expenses incurred in printing LOS NEWS	49.51
Bank charges	4.44
National Audubon Society dues	15.00
Rubber stamp for Sec't-Treas.	4.00
Balance on hand November 26, 1959	\$865.69

The nominating committee, appointed by President James R. Stewart and consisting of Horace H. Jeter, Robert J. Newman, and John P. Gee, submitted the following slate of names for officers for 1959-60: President, Ava Tabor; Vice-President, Buford M. Myers; Secretary-Treasurer, Jean Lowery; Directors, Katherine M. Hearne, P. Ambrose Daigre, Mary E. Lewis. This slate of officers was elected without further nominations.

The Secretary reported the following results of the mail ballot proposing a change in the Bylaws: Vote For, 9: Vote Against, 1. Considerable protest was voiced that our Bylaws permit their amendment through a process whereby as few as 10 members have voted. It was moved and seconded that the

President appoint a committee to study the Bylaws and to make recommendations and to propose any changes deemed appropriate.

The group voted to hold the spring meeting in Cameron the weekend of April 23.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

## HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR MARTIN HOUSE LATELY?



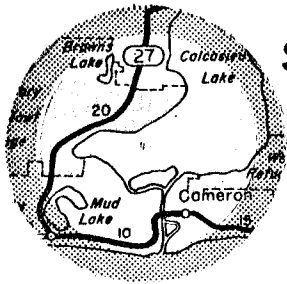
Reports have been received from Mrs. Eugene Gazedessus and others of Purple Martins found dead in martin boxes. Though the martins returned late this year, they apparently were not late enough to escape the disastrous effects of the cold weather and the shortage of insect food that goes with cold weather. Right now dead birds in the compartments are probably keeping many nesting boxes unoccupied. So if you own a martin house, or know anyone else who does, you should see that it is checked at once. If carcasses are found, please notify Bob Newman at the Museum of Zoology, L.S.U.



## SOME TRAVEL NOTES

In November HORACE JETER went to Jamaica and listed 34 lifers, only one of which can be seen in the U. S. \*\*\* BURT MONROE is in New Zealand on an expedition with Mr. Eugene duPont to obtain Kiwis, flightless parrots, and the like for an exhibit in the L.S.U. Museum of Natural Science. \*\*\* DOUG LAY is again doing his collecting in the Mexican state of Tabasco, where JOHNNY GEE recently joined him for a brief visit. \*\*\* At the moment FRANCIS M. WESTON is also on the trail of birds below the border. \*\*\* Miss Gesine Anne Maria Goosen, who joined the LOS last year and attended the fall meeting at Cameron, has returned to her home in Holland; so we now have a member living abroad. \*\*\* As for interstate travel, on the morning of Jan. 24, JETER and JIM STEWART, along with New Orleanians MARY LEWIS, DOROTHY HOWERTON, and SID GAUTHREAU, invaded Texas to bird around Tyler with O. C. Sheffield (among the results: 4 Long-eared Owls, one hundred plus Lapland Longspurs, one hundred plus Smith's Longspurs). \*\*\*

# 1959 CHRISTMAS COUNTS



## SABINE REFUGE

BY

JOHN P. GEE

A total of 163 different species were recorded during the SABINE REFUGE COUNT, making this year's count the highest to date. It turned out to be a highly successful trip despite the fact that only 11 persons attended and the weather remained bad until mid-afternoon. Even though a number of expected birds were not recorded, enough rarities were encountered to make it a most interesting day.

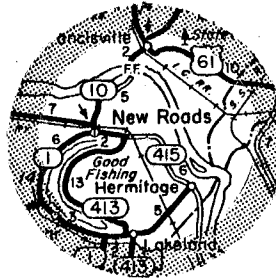
Tommy Pugh and Kent Myers spent the entire day patrolling Calcasieu Lake and the Refuge by boat. They contributed Anhinga, Green Heron, Purple Gallinule, and 3 Peregrine Falcons, as well as some of the diving ducks and water birds we often miss. Ava Tabor and Electa Levi scoured the town of Cameron as well as the prairie and marsh behind the town; one of the birds they contributed was a Bullock's Oriole.

Mary Lewis, Mac Myers, and Melvin Weber worked the oak hammocks and sloughs on the south side of Hackberry. There they found 3 Black-and-white Warblers, a Pine Siskin, and the first Tufted Titmouse to be recorded in Cameron Parish. At the East Jetty, Bob Moore and Sidney Gauthreaux recorded Harlan's and Broad-winged Hawks, White-winged Doves, and Whimbrels. Sidney collected a Baltimore Oriole not far from the spot where he found the Scott's Oriole the previous year.

Ralph Cambre and John Gee covered the West Jetty and Magnolia Road, finding 2 Reddish Egrets, Horned Larks, Groove-billed Anis and a magnificent flock of Roseate Spoonbills.

Each party contributed interesting and

unusual birds despite the rain and fog. That evening we compared notes while enjoying the usual congenial supper at Fred's restaurant. It is hoped that more LOS members will participate in this most fascinating Christmas Count next year.

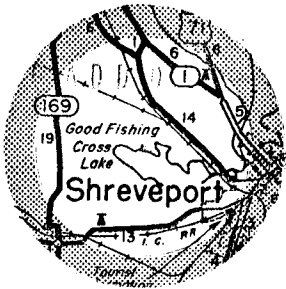


## ST. FRANCISVILLE

BY

BOB MOORE

This was a low year for the St. Francisville Area Count—only 101 species compared to the area record of 117 set in 1954. Most noticeable was the lack of ducks on False River and the small lakes and ponds along the Mississippi. Absent from the count were Double-crested Cormorant, Pintail, both Teal, Widgeon, Shoveller, Bufflehead, Wood Duck, and Mergansers. Only one Canvasback was seen (by George Lowery) where hundreds were reported in previous years. The combination of a poor nesting season for certain species, increased power-boating on False River, and hunting pressure in the bottomlands probably explains the poor showing this year. Aside from the lack of ducks, the count was about normal. Several species normally seen were missed: Screech Owl, Barn Owl, Junco, Palm Warbler, and Leconte's Sparrow. However, three new species, not previously recorded on Christmas counts in this area, were added to the all-time list: 1 Caspian Tern (George Lowery), 1 Groove-billed Ani (Mary Ann and Bob Moore), and 1 Wood Thrush (Phil Callahan). Our group this year contained 11 highly competent observers: L.C. Binford, P.S. Callahan, G.J. Carter, J.P. Gee, G.H. Lowery, Mary Ann Moore, R.B. Moore, R.A. Norris, Tommy Pugh, and Mrs. Cecil G. Taylor. The fact that each of the six parties was able to turn in exclusives suggests that more party-hours, particularly on foot, will permit the St. Francisville area to regain its former standing in future years.



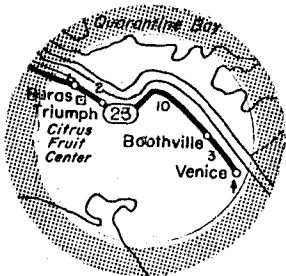
## SHREVEPORT COUNT

BY

HORACE H. JETER

The 1959 Christmas Bird Count at Shreveport was notable for the fact that it was the most prosaic one in several years. Of the approximately 28,257 individual birds of 94 species which were recorded, not one was a new form for the Shreveport Counts. We did have several nice birds, however, including Bonaparte's Gull, Fish Crow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskin, Spotted Towhee, and Oregon Junco. One newcomer, Will Fullilove, joined the ranks of those who have participated previously: Dale Hamilton, Katherine Hearne, L. D. Huey, Horace Jeter, Ethel Jones, Bobby Lance, O.C. Sheffield, and Jim Stewart. Covering substantially the same respective sections of our Count area, which centers 3 miles south of Blanchard, as we worked last year, our parties agreed that the birds simply were not present in the numbers and variety of the previous year. Primarily as a result of better blackbird flocks, our total count of individuals was up.

Our principal rival, Tyler, was down in numbers too, and we continued to stay comfortably ahead of all Arkansas Counts,



## VENICE BURAS COUNT

BY

SID GAUTHREUX

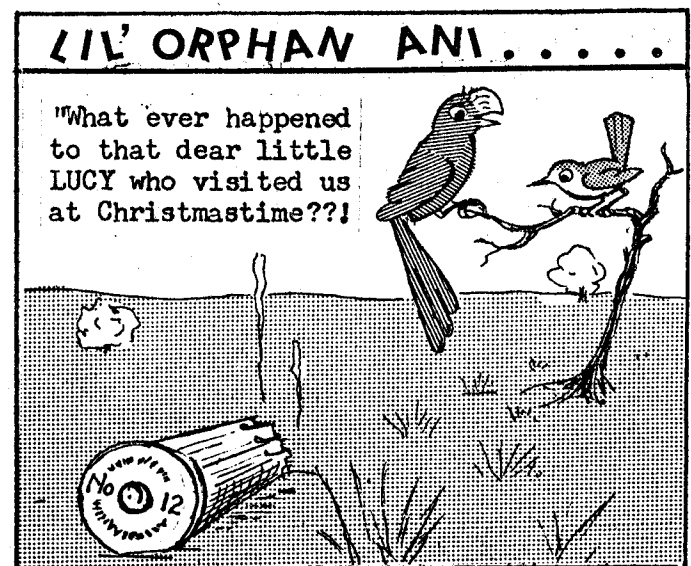
On December 30, 1959 a new Christmas Count was born in an area filled with orange groves and "islands" of deciduous woods. The Count's circle was centered 4-1/2 miles southeast of Buras, Louisiana and included the towns of Venice, Bothville, Triumph, and Buras - all on State Route 23. Land birds were for the most part extremely abundant, while many species

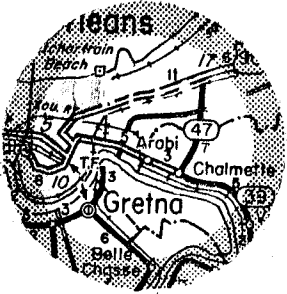
of ducks and shore birds were lacking. The time for the Count was from 6:15 A.M. to 6:15 P.M. The temperature ranged from 44° to 60°. The start of the day was clear with only 5% cloud cover, but the finish was cloudy with 90% cloud cover. During the Count the wind was from the west at 10-12 M.P.H. There were 9 observers in 3 parties.

The noteworthy species and numbers are as follows: Green Heron 8; Cattle Egret 4; White-faced Ibis 1155; White Ibis 1400; Ground Dove 25; Chuck-will's-widow 1; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 19; Rough-winged Swallow 55; Solitary Vireo 9; Black-and-white Warbler 6; Magnolia Warbler 1; Yellow-throated Warbler 1; Wilson's Warbler 4; Purple Finch 8. The species total was 112.

By far the best bird of the Count was an adult LUCY'S WARBLER in winter plumage. I collected the bird with the expert assistance of Mary Lewis and Melvin Weber after a strenuous ordeal with a landowner. The bird was found on private property in a field no larger than 50 by 100 feet. To my knowledge this is the farthest east the bird has ever occurred (previously El Paso, Tex.) and first acceptable Lucy's for the state list and for a Christmas Count.

Observers not previously mentioned include: Mrs. H.A.J. Evans, Michael E. Caldwell, Mrs. Electa Levi, Miss Ava R. Tabor, Ralph Cambre, and Mac Myers.





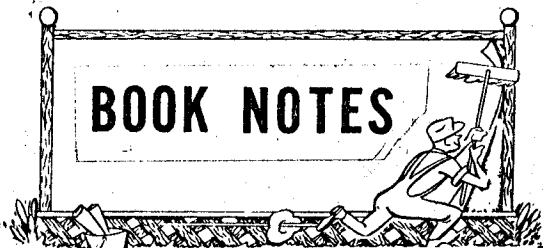
## NEW ORLEANS COUNT

BY  
SID GAUTHREUX

On January 3, as the observers entered their respective areas, there was a potential of 130 species to be found. These birds had been seen a few weeks before. The circle was moved a bit east to accommodate some "goodies" and to reduce the amount of urban area that filled so much of the circle in previous years. The circle's new center was at Jackson Barracks. The small number of observers played an important role in the final number of species (113). A frontal passage the night before the Count caused cold temperatures (45-50°) and partly cloudy skies (30-50% cover) on the big day.

Some of the most interesting species recorded were Anhinga, Cattle Egret, Hooded Merganser, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Vermilion Flycatcher, White-winged Dove, Rough-winged Swallow, Sprague's Pipit, Black-and-white Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Bullock's Oriole, and Lark Sparrow. A Prairie Warbler was seen the day before the Count and a Black-throated Green Warbler was seen two days after the Count. Many "easy finds" were missed.

Observers were as follows: Mr. & Mrs. H.A.J. Evans, Rose Feingold, Sidney Garic, Oliver Holmes, Dr. Graber, Dr. Landry, Mary Lewis, Buford and Mac Myers, and Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr.



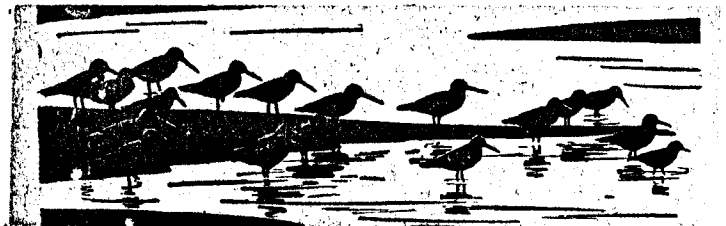
The manuscript of the second edition of Dr. Lowery's LOUISIANA BIRDS is in the hands of the printer. The revised book will contain 10 additional accounts for species recently admitted to the state list,

which now contains 387 official entries. The seasonal occurrence charts have been brought completely up to date and expanded into a check-list of all the birds so far recorded in Louisiana.

Fresh from the presses, in a gray jacket decorated with portraits of the Whooping Crane, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Western Meadowlark, comes a new "Peterson" - a FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF TEXAS. It combines most of the plates from Peterson's famous eastern guide with many new plates for western birds far superior to those in his western guide. LOS'ers who have been carting both eastern and western guides into the field with them, in the hope of discovering some new western rarity for the Louisiana list, will find here an ideal one-volume aid. Most of the strays we can expect to find in the state in the future are birds already recorded in Texas and described and pictured in this latest Peterson. The book can be purchased from the Texas Game and Fish Commission, Austin, Tex., for \$3.00, less than any other Peterson bird guide.

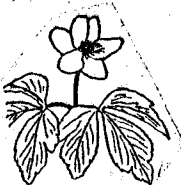
The LOUISIANA WILDLIFE INVENTORY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN by Dr. Lyle S. St. Amant is a 349-page, slick-paper, hard-cover report brought out by the Pittman-Robertson Section of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. It contains accounts of waterfowl, upland game birds, game mammals, and fur-bearers. It is our understanding that this publication will be sent without charge as long as copies are available.

Members interested in the ways of birds, the kind of nests they build, the kind of eggs they lay, the habitats they frequent and so forth will be happy to learn that the famous BENT'S LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS are now available in a two-volume abridgement. The price: \$5.95 per volume. The publisher: Harper and Bros., New York.



## SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE TO THE SMOKIES

BY KATHERINE HEARNE



Annually the last week in April a Wildflower Pilgrimage to the Smokies is held at Gatlinburg, Tenn. It is sponsored jointly by the Park Service, the Botany Departments of Vanderbilt and Tennessee Universities, the Chamber of Commerce of Gatlinburg, and the Garden Clubs of the area.

At one of the Cameron meetings Mrs. Williamson, knowing of Mrs. Jones' interest in wild flowers, first told us of this pilgrimage. The unbelievable profusion of wildflower bloom and the abundance of bird life make the trip extremely worthwhile.

Getting there from Shreveport is an easy two-day drive. Accommodations at Gatlinburg are numerous and modern. All information may be obtained by writing the Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce.

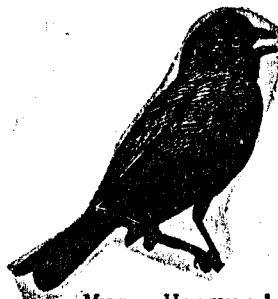
At the Civic Auditorium, where Pilgrims register, information on field trips, photographic tours, and morning bird walks is furnished. Garden club members man the desks and park naturalists exhibit specimens for study of wild flowers. They try to answer all questions. A large percentage of those attending are bird observers.

Tours are of day and a half day lengths, repeated on different days. They are arranged as motorcades of not more than 12 cars each.

Bird walks around the Park Headquarters are held each morning prior to tour departure. We recorded in abundance the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Catbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Ovenbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, American Redstart, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Other birds observed were the Ruffed Grouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Worm-eating Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Canada Warbler.

A wonderful treat for us out our window was a flock of about 12 Evening Grosbeaks at a feeder. The males were feeding the females. We were told they have been coming there during the winter for five years. We later learned that they left Gatlinburg on May 15.

Wildflowers, shrubs, and trees, from the floor of the valley to mountain tops, were in full bloom and it is impossible here to enumerate and describe all of them, not even the many rare plants found at each stop. What is more fragrant than wild crabapple, more beautiful than silverbell, "sarvice" berry, or giant yellow buckeye trees! Trillium grandiflora blossomed in nature like the largest Darwin tulips in our gardens. The beauty of this region in spring is incomparable. You must go there if you can.



## ANNOUNCEMENT OF TWO BIRD MEETINGS

Mrs. Hearne's description of the enchantments of spring in the Smokies is a particularly timely one, for this year Gatlinburg is offering lovers of the outdoors a double feature. The annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society will be held there on May 5-8.

Our own LOS spring get-together will again be at Cameron. Field trips are scheduled for April 23 and 24 and the dinner meeting for the night of April 23, at Fred's Drive-Inn. Further details will be posted on the afternoon of April 22 in the lobby of the Cameron Hotel, traditionally our official headquarters. Whether you make your reservations there or at the Broussard's or Gulf Motels, you should register for the meeting as soon as you get in town on the roster that will be provided at the Cameron Hotel. Many of us will be arriving on Friday night. We hope to see you then!

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## NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Calvin Bajon  
P. O. Box 232  
White Castle, Louisiana

Mr. & Mrs. Jesse H. Cutrer, Jr.  
Cone Road  
Bogalusa, Louisiana

Mrs. Bedford Floyd  
4819 Kendall Avenue  
Gulfport, Mississippi

Mr. Robert Harper  
8155 Rainbow Drive  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Mrs. J. L. Hooks  
1849 Calder Avenue  
Beaumont, Texas

Mrs. Fanny McCoy  
524 North 6th Street  
Baton Rouge, La.

Mr. & Mrs. Kent E. Myers  
Sabine National Wildlife Refuge  
Sulphur, Louisiana

Mr. Mac Myers  
2104 General Pershing Street  
New Orleans 15, Louisiana

Mr. Gary John Pontiff  
Box 5316 University Station  
Baton Rouge 3, Louisiana

Mr. J. F. Weiss  
94C Fontainebleau Drive  
New Orleans 25, Louisiana

Mr. Eugene J. Wilhelm, Jr.  
Dept. of Geography and Anthropology, L.S.U.  
Baton Rouge Louisiana

**THE NEW PAGE SIZE** in this issue was necessary for continued use of the Xerox printing process, which was one of the improvements in the NEWS introduced by 1958 editor Jim Stewart. Facilities are lacking here for reproducing pages of the familiar length. This issue is experimental; we're not yet sure just what the limitations of the new method are.



NEW  
LIFE  
MEMBER

It is a pleasure to announce that the Society has already acquired its first Life Member of the new year. He is Mr. Johnson S. Conner, well-known to Baton Rougeans as an Associate Professor of Engineering Drawing at L.S.U., a crack outdoorsman, and a far-traveling big game hunter. Mr. Conner's latest safari was a safari in the strictest sense of the term; it took him to Nairobi in Kenya and within sight of the "snows of Kilimanjaro." He collected most of the standard African trophies, including lion, elephant, and water buffalo, and presented to the L.S.U. Museum of Zoology its first specimen of Struthio camelus. No, that's not a camel; it's an ostrich.

### □ BITS OF NEWS □

**FUTURE MEMBER?**—Seven pound, 10 ounce Patricia Anne born to the JAMES R. STEWARTS November 27, 1959. □ **MAJORITY.**—Five of the nine participants in the Christmas Count at Dauphin Island, Ala., January 2, were LOSERS: MICHAEL CALDWELL, FATHER DORN, BOB NEWMAN, AVA TABOR, and of course TOM IMHOF, organizer of the Count. □ **M.O.S IN LA.**—The Mississippi Ornithological Society, which several times has edged into our domain by boat trips to the Chandeleurs, is considering the idea of an overland invasion in April, all the way to Cameron Parish. **NOTE FROM NATCHITOCHEs.**—A report by KATHERINE HEARNE of good birding at the Fish Hatchery will be good news to STU WARTER, who will teach at Northwestern State College in the summer session and to DOUG LANCASTER, who will join the faculty in the fall. □ **ACTION AT WBRZ.**—Among the night migrants killed this spring at a Baton Rouge TV tower, ELLEN TAYLOR reports the earliest Swainson's Warbler ever recorded in Louisiana. □