

**L**OUISIANA  
**O**RNITHOLOGICAL  
**S**OCIETY

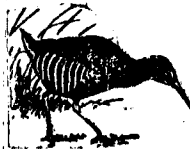


**THE** 1960 spring meeting at Cameron came and went; and the production department of the LOS NEWS was all set to cover the event promptly in a May issue. Layouts for several pages were ready to go. But somehow the reporting staff got its signals crossed and no account of the meeting ever reached the Editor, who waited and waited.

That weekend has become a pleasant memory and by this time a vague one as well. No one seems to recall much about it except that 44 persons attended, that they all had a lot of fun, that no business was transacted, and that Mrs. Bennett Floyd showed a series of stunning color slides of birds and flowers.

As a result of the long lag, some of the content of this issue is a bit out of date. Every effort will be made, however, to follow up with an early December issue catching up on the news and reporting on the fall meeting. In this undertaking, YOUR help is urgently needed. The LOS NEWS has a big backlog of long accounts of summer trips; but it has been receiving few of the brief items telling the members what other members are doing. So sit right down and dash off a note to the President and let us know about recent events that have concerned you or some other member--about births, marriages, changes of job or residence, and things like that, as well as your adventures with birds. The address is: Miss Ava R. Tabor, 305 Canal Avenue, Thibodaux, Louisiana.

**LOS WILL AGAIN MEET AT CAMERON**



**OUR** fall get-together will also be held at Cameron, the state's most famous and productive bird locality. Field trips will take place on December 3 and 4 and the dinner meeting (our main annual business meeting) on the night of December 3 at Fred's Restaurant. As usual, further details and a registration sheet will be posted in the lobby of the old Cameron Hotel. Whether you make your reservations at the hotel or at the Broussard's or Gulf Motel, you should drop in to the Cameron Hotel to sign the roster as soon as you arrive in town. Hope you can make it!

**TWO NEW LIFE MEMBERS**



**WE** are proud to announce that Dr. Donald M. Bradburn and Miss Dorothy K. Howerton, both of New Orleans, have continued their fine support of the LOS by becoming Life Members. Life Membership, you will recall, is available to members upon payment of a lump sum of \$25.00 and excuses the member of all further payment of dues. Other members who want to avail themselves of the privileges of Life Membership should mail their checks to our Secretary-Treasurer, Jean Lowery, 6255 Chandler Drive, Baton Rouge 8, Louisiana

# OWLS IN BATON ROUGE

by  
DOUG LANCASTER

Interest in the spring migration took a back seat in March to a pair of winter residents discovered in a live oak in the front yard of a home here in Baton Rouge. Following up a phone call on March 18 from Mr. W. E. Robins who had noticed the two birds we discovered that they were, indeed, what he had suspected—Long-eared Owls. They had evidently been there for some time, for Mrs. Merle Dore, in whose yard they were residing, had first seen evidence of the birds about six weeks prior to our discovery. Many people have since gone to look at the birds at 635 Bungalow Lane.



**LONG-EARED OWL** Long-eared Owls are thought to be rare winter visitors here in Louisiana. They are inconspicuous birds, however, and might be more common than we realize. We would like to learn just what their status really is in Louisiana. LOS members can help by keeping a lookout for Long-eared Owls. When searching for owls the best method to employ is, oddly enough, to look to the ground instead of to the trees. Beneath a tree in which an owl has been roosting one will find pellets containing fur and bones—the indigestible remains of previous meals.



We had hoped that the owls might try to raise a brood in an abandoned squirrel nest in the same tree, as Long-ears sometimes do. But, as March was ending and the leaves on the live oak were becoming more and more sparse and exposing the birds more and more to view, they suddenly left Bungalow Lane. Perhaps they are still somewhere in town.

DO YOU HAVE A COPY OF George Lowery's Quantitative Study of Nocturnal Migration? If so, and you no longer use it, we would appreciate your donating it to the LSU Museum of Zoology. The publication is out of print, and only through your generosity will the Museum be able to fill requests for it from other institutions that want to begin lunar migration studies of their own.

## MORE BOOK NOTES

CAROLINA PARAKEET

CHIMNEY SWIFT

SANDPIPER

PHOEBE

CHICKADEE

ICELAND GULL

BALTIMORE ORIOLE

We'll bet you think these names are names of birds. Well guess again! They're names of new chrysanthemums as they appear in a Jackson and Perkins circular, from which the following account of the Baltimore Oriole is taken:

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE**  
(Pl. Pat. No. 1636) Golden yellow, 5 1/2 in. flat decorative flower. Petals, slightly lighter on the reverse. Grows 30 in. tall. Blooms from mid-Sept. on.

All this simply goes to show that field identification is getting harder every day. Happily, Dover Publications Inc., 180 Varick Street, New York 14, N.Y., has offered help in the crisis by reissuing the humorous classic HOW TO TELL THE BIRDS FROM THE FLOWERS as a 75¢ paperback. If you're puzzled how to distinguish between a Parrot and Carrot, an Ape and a Grape, or a Puffin and Nuffin', buy it!



← Pansy.

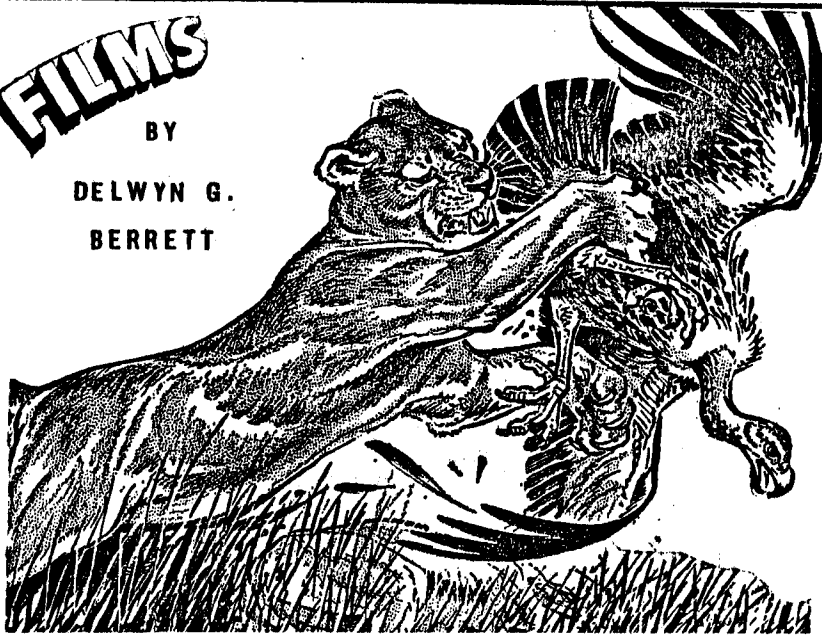
Chimpansy. →



# FILMS

BY

DELWYN G.  
BERRETT



rivers of the East African plains were shown many large nesting colonies of White-breasted Cormorants, Black-headed Herons, Spoonbills, White Pelicans (Old World variety), Sacred Ibis, Wood Ibis (Old World variety), Saddlebill Storks, Open-bill Storks, etc. Also pictured were the Goliath Heron, Night Heron, Dwarf Goose, Gallinule, Malachite Kingfisher, Courser, Weaver, and Sunbird (a group of birds which fills the same niche in Africa as the hummingbirds do in America).

Last spring, we here in Baton Rouge were ready to pack up and go to Africa. Why? A picture called MASTERS OF THE CONGO JUNGLE.

The African Clean-up Crew, the Griffon Vulture and the Marabou, was shown performing its very valuable task. The marabou is a stork which has adopted for the most part, the habits of a vulture.

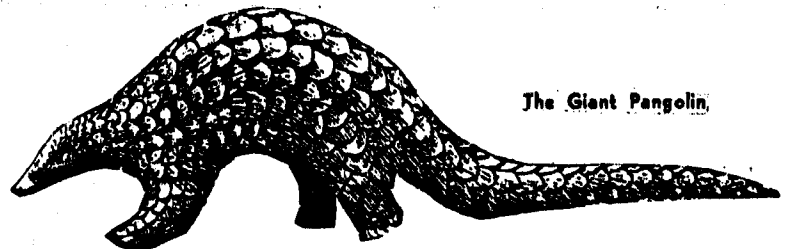
We walked into this picture quite unawares, not realizing what a masterpiece we were to witness. We had anticipated a typical travelogue of Africa, but to our pleasant surprise it turned out to be a masterful blending of wildlife scenes with the lives of the African natives. Enough of these scenes were of birds to keep the "birdwatcher" and "lister" on the edge of his seat anticipating each next scene.

In the Congo jungle probably the most spectacular shot was of the Crowned Eagle hunting for its prey. Also pictured were a Nest-robbing Hawk, Palm-nut Vulture (a vulture-like bird that has taken to feeding upon palm nuts rather than carrion), two species of Hornbill, Turaco, and Congo Peacock, one of the most recently discovered of known birds.

The picture began by illustrating how the African Rift valley developed geologically. As the mountains rose, two separate worlds were created, the plains of East Africa and the Congo jungle. How Man came about, according to the African native, and learned to live with the wildlife about him was one of the themes dwelt upon throughout the film.

You will be amazed how much color on a wide screen, combined with a high fidelity sound track, does to transport the viewer out of the theater to the midst of far-off places. When the film was over, we had the feeling of actually returning with a sudden jolt from another continent. Doug Lancaster called this the greatest movie of any sort he has ever seen. Don't miss it if it comes your way!

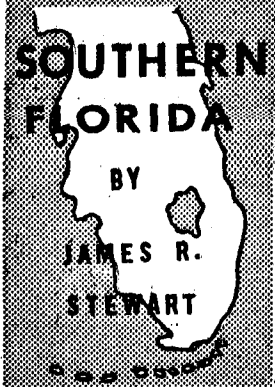
Among wildlife pictured other than birds were the lion, elephant, zebra, hippopotamus, aardvark, pangolin, hyrax, hyena, red river hog, gorilla, monkey, genet, okapi, leopard, water buffalo, antelope, otter, crocodile, chameleon, several snakes, insects, millipeds, etc.



The Giant Pangolin

The bird shots were fascinating. One spectacular scene we'll long remember was of the handsome African Fish Eagle. On the

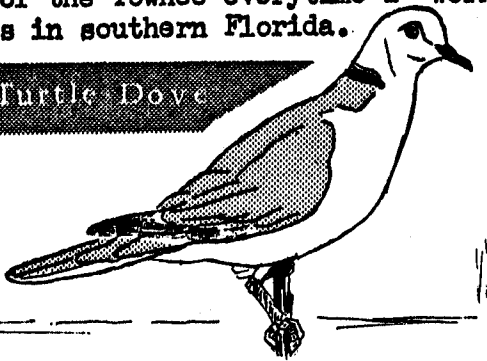
Word comes that the True-Life Adventure ISLANDS OF THE SEA, begun years ago, is still in the process of filming.



In early June, after much correspondence with several Florida birders, I began a combined family vacation and birding trip to the Everglades State. Hurrying through the northern part of the state we reached St. Petersburg the afternoon of the second day.

A quick visit to the small park on Tampa Bay at 9th Avenue North produced three very tame RINGED TURTLE DOVES, a naturalized species in this area. Early the next morning a small patch of scrub behind our motel yielded another pair of turtle doves and several "White-eyed" Towhees. I was to see this race of the Towhee everytime I worked scrub areas in southern Florida.

Ringed Turtle Dove



That afternoon we made a side excursion to Big Pine Island near the mouth of the Caloosahatchee River. In the extensive mangrove areas here I hoped a Mangrove Cuckoo might be located. Two other species, the GRAY KINGBIRD and BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO, were soon located, both being fairly common here. In the mangroves just south of Pine-land I twice heard a peculiar cuckoo call, but the mosquitoes proved more than a match for the family so I had to leave. Early the next morning, leaving the family in the safety of Fort Myers, I returned to the spot but heard and saw only Yellow-billed Cuckoos. At the Big Pine Island-Little Pine Island bridge I was more successful. The first thing I heard as I out the car motor off was that same cuckoo call. Quickly settling myself behind the car I waited. In a few minutes it flew across the road—the buff belly and dark mask announcing my first unusual bird. He paused a few moments in the top of a mangrove, then quietly disappeared. Two other mangrove and many yellow-bills were also heard calling in this

area.

The rest of the morning was spent visiting the beautiful Corkscrew Swamp east of Immokalee. After a two mile hike through palmetto scrub I was rewarded with sights of enormous cypresses, orchids, luxuriant tropical vegetation, alligators, Marsh Rabbits and many of the 4000 breeding Wood Ibis; but with only the wail of the elusive Limpkin.

The Corkscrew Swamp ranger told me to keep a sharp eye peeled after I crossed the first large concrete bridge south of Sunniland on the Immokalee-Carnestown road. Sure enough just after crossing this bridge, I saw a SWALLOW-TAILED KITE cross the road and dip behind a railroad embankment. Dashing to the top of the embankment, I was thrilled to see not one but twelve of these striking birds effortlessly plucking dragon flies out of the air. Later, on North Key Largo I saw one carrying a long green snake, just as the bird artists so frequently portray it.

In the Ochopee area high water and burned marsh doomed my efforts to locate the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow. Two later visits were no more productive. A late evening visit to the beaches on Marco Island closed the day on a pleasant note as I added the SNOWY PLOVER to my list.

Our next stop was Clewiston on Lake Okechobee. Cattle Egrets were in every pasture, and in the wetter areas I saw my first GLOSSY IBIS along with Wood Ibis, various herons, Mottled Ducks and Black-necked Stilts. My only other accomplishment that day was to arrange with Pat McGehee for an airboat ride on the lake at nine the next morning. Before meeting McGehee the next morning I walked the bank of the canal in Clewiston and soon found my quarry—a male SMOOTH-BILLED ANI. It soon led me to its mate, which was incubating on a very bulky nest. At nine, I met McGehee and we were soon skimming over the saw-grass. LIMPKINS and numerous other water birds scurried out of the path of our roaring monster. In about thirty minutes we stopped in a small opening in the cattails as a male and female EVERGLADE KITE rose from the nearby willows. Two fully feathered young were in

a nest in the willows. Later a second male appeared and fed the young. It was a wonderful experience to see five of these rare birds at one time but sobering when I realized I was looking at almost half the total U.S. population of twelve birds.

The Fairchild Tropical Gardens in Miami were a proper setting for my next bird, another alien, the brilliant SPOTTED-BREADED ORIOLE. Not included in my list but quite interesting were two pairs of Rose-breasted Cockatoos that had usurped woodpecker holes in two nearby Royal Palms for nest sites.



Spotted-breasted  
Oriole

The Florida Keys were next and shortly after arriving on Key Largo I saw my first exciting Keys' bird, the WHITE-CROWNED PIGEON. This bird was seen throughout the Keys, being particularly numerous on Stock Island near Key West. It was not until we reached Boca Chica Key that I found my first GREAT WHITE HERON, although a Wurde-man type was seen near Marathon. At Key West two subspecies were to be looked for. At the salt pond I easily located BAHAMAN NIGHTHAWKS, a race of the Common Nighthawk. The next morning at the garbage dump on Stock Island I heard a lone CUBAN GOLDEN WARBLER singing under the cover of the mangroves. A few squeaks quickly brought it into the open.

My last key birding was again on Key Largo, where, after much neck craning, I finally spotted soaring high in the air a white bellied Buteo—the rare SHORT-TAILED HAWK. A most surprising bird here was an extremely late Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a female which was being chased by a pair of Gray Kingbirds.

As vacation time drew to a close we began the northward journey along the east coast of Florida. We approached Titusville via Merritt Island and in the palmetto scrub there saw several very tame SCRUB JAYS. After getting settled in the motel

in Titusville, I drove back to Merritt Island and just as Peterson says, I found the DUSKY SEASIDE SPARROW "just across the bridge". This ended one of my most successful birding trips.



## AND CUBA TOO

BY MAC MYERS

Editor's Note: Close on Jim Stewart's heels, Buford and Mac Myers also went to Florida. On the Peninsula, they visited many of the same places and saw many of the same birds. Near the end of June, however, they diverged briefly but radically from the Stewart trail. Mac Myer's account of the result is tantalizingly short.

On June 27 while on a fishing boat out of Marathon, we saw 2 or 3 Bridled Terns. On June 29 we went to Havana, Cuba. While there we saw large flocks of Cuban Blackbirds and Greater Antillean Grackles flying above the Prado. We also saw a number of Cave Swallows flying above the city. On June 30 I saw one Scaled Pigeon in the city.

Although we took a short trip into the countryside we saw very few birds—Smooth-billed Anis and Sparrow Hawk. We believe the reason for this is possibly that the local peons and farmers shoot the birds.

## JOHN WOOD BITTEN BY FER-DE-LANCE CONDITION CRITICAL'

Dr. Lowery's heart did a flip-flop one day last spring as this telegram from Doug Lay in Tabasco was read to him over the phone. But a moment later another wire from Doug reminded him that it was April Fool's Day. Pretending he had not received the second message George immediately sent the following reply to the first: "SPARE NO MEDICAL EXPENSE—MRS. WOOD DEPARTS BY PLANE TONIGHT—SENDING DR. ROGER CONANT, PHILA. ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS AND DR. FRITZ SCHWEITZER, N.Y., BY CHARTERED PLANE AS SPECIAL CONSULTANTS—DEPART MYSELF TOMORROW." The effect of this counter-missive on the nerves of pranksters Lay and Wood is a secret that the L.S.U. Museum's Tabasco representatives have not yet shared with the home office.

**OUR GROWING MEMBERSHIP** . . . . . The LOS NEWS extends cordial greetings to the following members, who have joined since our last issue:

Mr. and Mrs. B. David Aldridge  
104 Mr. Carmel Drive  
Natchez, Mississippi

Mr. John M. Holmes  
4218 Coliseum Street, N  
New Orleans 15, Louisiana

Mr. Robert F. Andrie  
P. O. Box 12305, University Station  
Baton Rouge 3, Louisiana

Mrs. K. B. Kellogg  
8636 W. Fairway Drive, Baton Rouge, La.

Mr. Earl Barham  
Oak Ridge, Louisiana

Mrs. G. G. Nesbitt  
622 Jordan Street, Shreveport, La.

Mrs. Louise W. Brown  
1330 Fourth Street  
Alexandria, Louisiana

Dr. Lawrence Palmer O'Meallie  
814 Governor Nicholls Street  
New Orleans 16, Louisiana

Dr. Bedford Floyd  
4819 Kendall Avenue  
Gulfport, Mississippi

Mr. Roy E. Rhame  
1900 Ninth Avenue, Lake Charles, La.

Dr. William J. Graber III  
5520 Loyola Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Captain A. N. Robinson AO 1865102  
405 Fighter Wing APO 74  
San Francisco, California

Dr. E. S. Hathaway  
1423 Jefferson Avenue  
New Orleans 15, Louisiana

Mr. Lovett E. Williams, Jr.  
U. S. Coast Guard, Capt. of the Port Office  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Miss Marion H. Wolf  
720 Lafayette Street  
Lafayette, Louisiana

