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LOUISIANA  
ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY



No. 25

New Orleans, La.

January 31, 1961

## WHAT'S NEW?

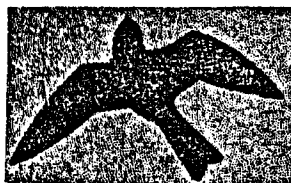
What have you done lately? Where have you been? What birding spots do you know that others would like to visit? Have you told the world about that Pink-footed Tinamou that turned up in your side yard last week? In a word, WHAT'S NEW?

Don't keep all these exciting secrets to yourself -- put them on paper and send them to the Editor-- he needs your help if this publication is to be as interesting as it has been in the past.

Send any and all news to:  
B. M. Myers  
2104 Gen. Pershing St.  
New Orleans 15, La.

## ANOTHER LIFE MEMBER

Dr. HENRY D. HABERYAN of Mississippi, whom most of us met for the first time at the 1959 Fall LOS outing, attended this autumn's meeting and took out a Life Membership. Dr. Haberyan is a keen field man and is embarking with Mrs. Bennett Floyd on a program of bird banding on the Mississippi Coast. The Society is extremely happy to have him as a permanent member.



SEE YOU  
AT  
FRED'S.

Oh, to be in Cameron when Spring comes in again!

Those may not be the poet's exact words, but they sum up the wishes of every birder who has ever made one of the LOS April meetings in that fabulous town. Good weather or bad, migrants by the hundreds or in scattered singles, birds perching on your binoculars or leading you a merry chase through the brush, it's always well worth the trip.

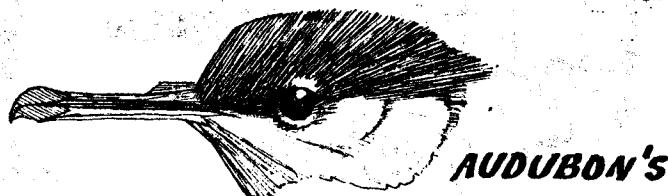
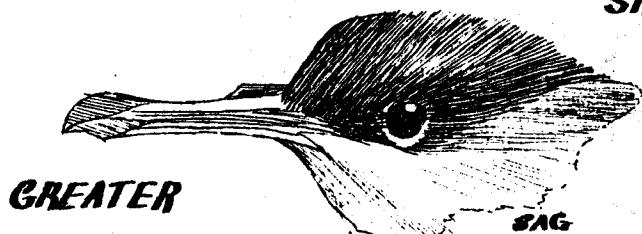
Plan now to be with us -- you'll be notified by mail as soon as the exact dates are set. This year a new system is being used which practically guarantees a record list. Johnny Gee will be in Yucatan keeping the migrants fed, watered and entertained until just before the meeting date. When he turns them loose, they'll cross the Gulf and hit Cameron in clouds. Dr. Lowery is also arranging for a norther to hold them there.

Just be sure you are there, too.

# ORNITHOLOGIST vs. WIPER

## SHEARWATERS

By Sidney  
Gauthreaux



On June 23, 1960 the SS Neva West sailed down the Mississippi River with at least one excited fellow aboard. I was classed as a wiper and didn't have the slightest idea of the pleasure and misery to come. I had a hard time sleeping but my partner snored away. The lights of small river towns swept past as I looked out the porthole. I finally dozed, to be awakened by the cries of Laughing Gulls and many species of terns. I hurriedly dressed, grabbed my binoculars and went to the stern of the ship. Never had I viewed such a dramatic sight -- there in the distance was the coastline of the United States with thousands of birds, American birds, flying in the early morning sun. Such was the beginning of a most memorable trip, a trip that added ninety-seven new birds to my life-list.

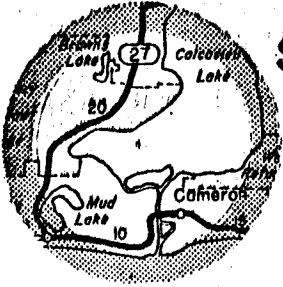
As a wiper in the engine room I had to work eight hours a day under conditions of 150 degree temperature, excessive carbon monoxide and piles and piles of soot. While still in the Gulf of Mexico, such species as SOOTY SHEARWATER, WILSON'S PETREL, and BRIDLED TERN were seen. As the Neva rounded the Dry Tortugas and proceeded past the Florida Keys, I picked up the NODDY, and PARASITIC JAEGER. Only a few (3) WHITE-TAILED TROPIC-BIRDS were seen after the ship went through the Bahamas and towards Bermuda.

On July 5 I spotted two more lifers, an AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER and a GREATER SHEARWATER. A couple of

LEACH'S PETRELS obliged me on the sixth of July. On July 11 there was a little blow in the North Atlantic and the Neva West was caught right in the middle. The birds that day at sea were most plentiful--I saw many more than I could identify. Two were new for me, MANX SHEARWATER and CORY'S SHEARWATER. This was to be the last of the seabirds for a while, for the S. S. Neva West had come to land.

Santander, Spain located at an altitude of 8679 in the northern Pyrenees was the Neva's first stop. After work I dashed ashore and started my search for European birds. I saw many BLACK-HEADED GULLS as I hurried down the gangplank. SWIFTS were sailing in and out of the streets. After viewing the town, I headed for the outskirts of Santander where I saw 3 LITTLE RINGED PLOVERS in a puddle. A KESTREL (different from ours) flew close overhead. On the muddy road with puddles of water here and there I saw my first WHITE and YELLOW WAGTAILS. These reminded me of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in their flying habits. GREENFINCHES chattered in the nearby shrubs. Little SERINS twittered as they kept flushing ahead of me. I saw HOUSE SPARROWS on their native ground. SPANISH SPARROWS and EUROPEAN TREE SPARROWS were to my left. I closed the day with 3 YELLOWHAMMERS and 2 CORN BUNTINGS.

Four other countries' birds will be mentioned in the next issue of LOS News (FRANCE, HOLLAND, GERMANY, ENGLAND).



# SABINE REFUGE COUNT

JOHN P. GEE

Our Christmas Count in Cameron was held on New Year's Day. We had a fine turnout of 24 observers, but managed to identify only 153 species. Last year, you will recall, 11 participants found 163 species in the same area.

We had fine counts of waterfowl and large waders and did unusually well on woodpeckers and sparrows. While we missed such expected species as White-crowned Sparrow and Carolina Wren and did poorly on such groups as warblers, much of the trouble seemed to be that we failed to pick up the number of rarities usually found in Cameron.

The parties working the north portion of the area around Hackberry and on the Refuge had the most success while others near the coast felt that the birds had deserted them. One disturbing factor was the increased human activity within the count circle; Magnolia Road held more hunters than ducks and at the West Jetty an irate hunter fired his shotgun at me. After birding that desolate area for eight years, it is hard to believe that we are no longer welcome.

Rough-legged Hawks were seen by both Bob Newman and Ava Tabor. A Reddish Egret spent the day near the road at West Jetty and a Cattle Egret was found by Bob Andrle at the East Jetty. A large flock of Roseate Spoonbills, an Oldsquaw and a Harris Sparrow were found on the Refuge by Kent Myers and Lovett Williams. George and Jean Lowery added the Fox Sparrow, and 4 Black-necked Stilts near Holly Beach re-

presented a new count record.

The weather was generally unpleasant and recent rainfalls left even the prairies knee-deep in water. Despite the unspectacular results, we had a congenial crowd and another interesting Cameron Count.

\* \* \* \* \*

Several birders and potential LOS members have recently moved to Lafayette. Jake Valentine and Ralph Andrews, sent here by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, both attended the Fall meeting. Ralph and his wife, Heddy, also went to Cameron for the Christmas Count.

George and Susan Bond moved here from England after a 15 month stay in Midland, Texas. George, a Petroleum Engineer with Shell Oil Co., is a world-famous mountaineer and outdoorsman, a member of the expedition which conquered Everest and the first man to climb Kanchenjunga, the world's third highest mountain. He and Susan are enthusiastic birders and they also joined us in Cameron for the Count.

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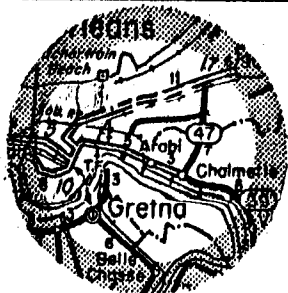
DUES ARE PAYABLE. For only \$1.00 you are signed up in good standing for another year. Where else can you find a bargain like this in these inflated times?

Why delay? Put one buck in an envelope now and send it today to:

Mrs. H.A.J. Evans  
1444 Calhoun Street  
New Orleans 18, La.

If your address has changed, please notify her.

P.S. For a real bargain, why not buy the large economy size? Twenty-five dollars (\$25) makes you a member for the rest of your life, with no further payment of dues ever. Think about it.



## NEW ORLEANS COUNT

BY

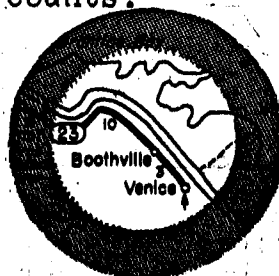
SID GAUTHREAU

New Orleans, like Venice, had miserable weather for the count. The rains came early in the morning and did not stop until midday. Fog and 57-68 degree temperatures also harassed the nine observers. Despite the weather, the New Orleans observers counted 109 species in their city.

There were twenty-two Cattle Egrets recorded in the morning. Blue-winged Teal and Canvasback were the two best ducks. Miss Lewis and I saw 10 Groove-billed Anis in a couple of low trees sitting in the rain. One male Common Nighthawk was observed on Canal St. around ten o'clock the night of the count. This bird was seen a month before in exactly the same spot. Mr. and Mrs. Evans reported a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird, but failed to record the Rufous that we have had for a number of years in the past. The calls of the bird were carefully noted and used to confirm the identification. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was observed by Miss Lewis and me and was collected. Two Vermilion Flycatchers were also added to the list in City Park. One Sprague's Pipit was seen by Miss Lewis. One Black-throated Green Warbler was gotten in City Park. The Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Seaside Sparrow were gotten in a brackish marsh to the east of the city. Finally two Fox Sparrows obliged me when I went to Pontchartrain Park to search for sparrows.

Despite the efforts of the party across the river (Buford Myers, John Holmes, Sid Garic and Mac Myers), they failed to add any exotic species but did admirably in

finding those species that are often overlooked. Dr. Graber also did very well (a Field Sparrow, Short-billed Marsh Wren, and another Vermilion Flycatcher), but was birding outside the count area. The count fell short of last years but had a far better quality, and quality counts.



## VENICE COUNT

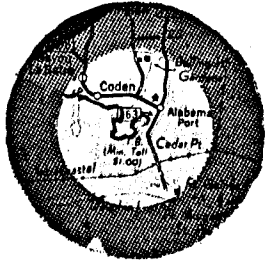
BY

SID GAUTHREAU

On December 24, 1960, despite the horrible weather conditions (100% cloud cover, off and on rain, SSE winds at 13 miles per hour, and 42 - 53 degree temperatures), five hard-working observers managed to record 131 species in the Venice area. A boat trip this year made it possible to record the many water birds that winter on the Delta Wildlife Refuge. John Delime and Lovett Williams worked on the boat while Mary Lewis, Jack Weiss and I worked the land areas to the north of the Refuge.

A Canada Goose proved to be one of the rare occurrences of this species on the Refuge. An adult Broad-winged Hawk was observed only a few hundred yards from an immature of the same species along the levee of the Mississippi River. Both birds permitted extremely close examination, and collecting was thought, at the time, to be unnecessary. I now find that there is no accepted Louisiana record for this species in December or January. A highlight of the day came when I collected an Ash-throated Flycatcher in a small woods in the town of Venice. A Sissor-tailed Flycatcher added spice to the flycatcher list. Eight Black and White Warblers were recorded in the patchy woods of the area. A Parula Warbler was observed in the rain within a few feet of

the observer. Miss Lewis found an Ovenbird in a weedy, vine-tangled ditch and called the rest of the party to see it. It was in fine plumage. Three Wilson's Warblers were recorded during the course of the day. Lovett Williams saw two American Redstarts at refuge headquarters. Indigo Bunting was added to the list after this species was missed last year. Twelve Lincoln's Sparrows rounded off a hard-worked-for list.



## DAUPHIN ISLAND COUNT BY TOM IMHOF

The fifth Dauphin Island count took place on December 30 with 15 observers, mostly from Birmingham, taking part. 130 species were recorded. Highlights of the day included 7 Gannets, 6 species of herons and 14 species of ducks including Greater Scaup and a fine count of 435 Goldeneyes. Noteworthy were 2 Broad-winged Hawks seen by separate observers ten miles apart, 16 species of shorebirds, 1 Rough-legged Hawk (possibly the first record within sight of the Gulf), 1 White-winged Dove and a Long-eared Owl.

Other records of more than usual interest were 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch (6th year in a row it has reached the Gulf), an Osprey, 1 Wood Thrush, 2 Lincoln's Sparrow and 7 species of warblers including Parula and Yellow-throated.

Among LOS members taking part in the count were the Evanses of New Orleans and Dr. Haberyan of Gulfport. More observers are needed--we could make 150 species with another good inland party for we missed common inland birds like the Bobwhite.

## NEW MEMBERS

The LOS NEWS extends cordial greetings to the following members, who have joined since the last issue:

Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Bazet,  
132 Wilson Ave.,  
Houma, La.

Mr. Hugh Wesley Black,  
222 Maumus Ave.,  
New Orleans 14, La.

Miss Christine Berry,  
3918 No. State St.,  
Jackson, Miss.

Miss Francis Cook,  
Crystal Springs, Miss.

Mr. Bert W. Lindsay,  
2910 Utah New,  
Alberquerque, N.M.

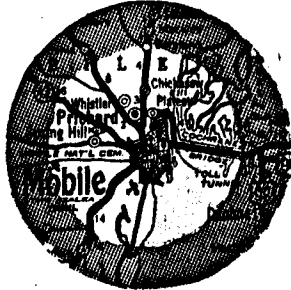
Mr. and Mrs. George C. Lucas,  
P. O. Box 16  
Garden City, La.

Mrs. W. G. Wills,  
1521 Poplar,  
Jackson, Miss.

## ORDER YOURS NOW

Many of you have seen the revised edition of Dr. George Lowery's LOUISIANA BIRDS which appeared not long ago. One important feature is the thorough revision of the seasonal occurrence charts in the back of the book. They have been brought up to date as of March 1, 1960 and now include every species officially recorded in the state.

These charts are now available in separate form at a price of 25 cents each. Order your copies now from the Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. H. A. J. Evans, 1444 Calhoun St., New Orleans 18, La.



## MOBILE COUNT

BY

FATHER J.L. DORN

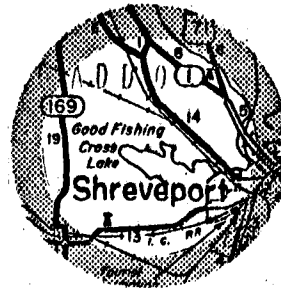
The Mobile count was held on December 31 and this year I had the fine help of three experienced observers, Dr. Gaillard, Paul Feldhaus and Fairly Chandler. The rain started early and at times came in torrents, driven by gusts up to 50 M.P.H. Fortunately, it began to clear about midday and we had sunlight most of the afternoon.

Areas covered included the Spring Hill campus, the Causeway and the waterways and marshes north of the Causeway.

By far the outstanding find of the day was a flock of 12 Black Terns. These flew directly over us at such close range that binoculars were not needed, although we used the glasses as they flew away from us. The brief time element did not permit collection but the plumage pattern and characteristic flight were unmistakable.

In addition to the Black Terns, other highlights included a flock of 15 White Ibis, 1 Least Bittern, both species carefully observed. Although several shorebirds were missed, we counted 11 species. Some ducks were not to be found but we still had 14 species, including 5 Greater Scaup, 7 Hooded Mergansers and 500 Canvasbacks.

In all, the day turned up 119 species and 13,820 individuals, including 6000 Coot and large numbers of gulls, Robins and Starlings. Additional observers are badly needed on this count as it is simply not possible to cover many excellent areas.



## SHREVEPORT COUNT

BY

HORACE H. JETER

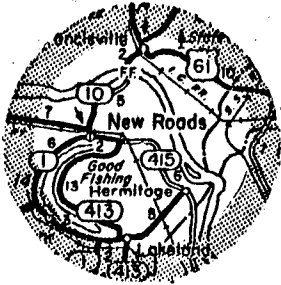
The Shreveport Count was held on December 26th with 9 observers participating in 6 parties. Despite less preliminary field work than usual, we tallied a total of about 51,324 individuals representing 98 species--better than we had expected. This may have been due in part to the practically ideal weather conditions.

Although nothing was seen which had not been previously recorded on a local Count, we did have some nice birds -- a Green Heron which Abner Cook had staked out and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher by Dale Hamilton. Other good birds included Bonaparte's Gull, Roadrunner (2 parties), and Oregon Junco (3 parties).

Two species of ducks which usually winter in good numbers on Cross Lake were either completely absent (Ruddy Duck) or almost so (5 Canvasback instead of the usual hundreds). Also noticeably down in numbers from last year were Yellow-shafted Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Bluebird, Cardinal, Slate-colored Junco, and Field Sparrow. Our high count of individuals is due primarily to an approximate total of 37,700 Common Grackles.

### LATE NEWS----LATE NEWS

Lovett Williams recently added another species to the growing Mississippi list. A Glaucous Gull was collected by him on the Mississippi Gulf Coast on January 15. Since he has been in New Orleans with the U.S. Coast Guard, he has been working the Coast area intensively.



## ST. FRANCISVILLE COUNT

BOB MOORE

The St. Francisville Area Count was held December 26 in weather varying from heavy fog to partly cloudy. This was the 16th consecutive year that a Christmas Count has been made in the St. Francisville-Port Hudson-False River area. There were 14 observers participating: Bob Andrie, Barbara Bodman, Phil Callahan, Ed Jeansonhe, Nelda Kilcrease, Doug Lay, Jean and George Lowery, Mary Ann and Bob Moore, Bob Newman, Tommy Pugh, Ellen Taylor, and Stu Warter.

Although only 99 species were recorded, the day was not without unusual observations. The Common Gallinule record is the second in 16 years, the Red-breasted Nuthatch is also the second, and the American Bittern is the third record in 16 St. Francisville counts.

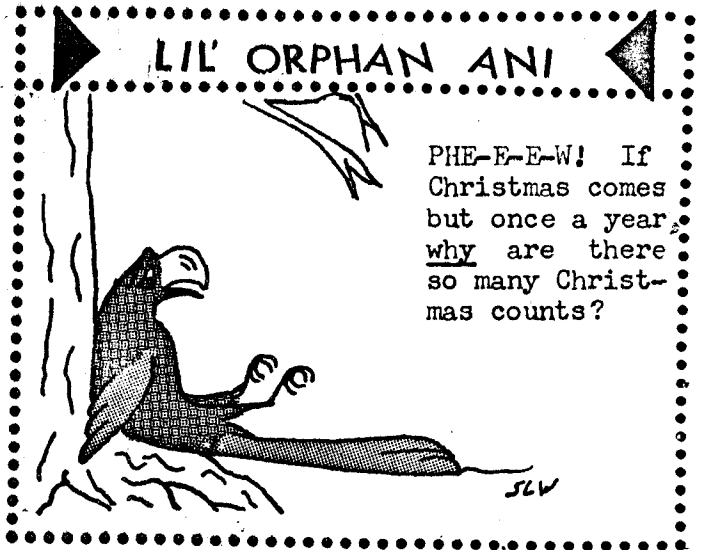
Your compiler has long suspected that there is a good correlation between number of species of nonaquatic birds seen and party-hours on foot—a suspicion well-confirmed by this year's count. The St. Francisville area has had the highest number of consecutive counts of any area in the State and has produced some outstanding counts in past years. To regain its standing it will require more observers for parts of the area untouched this year. Won't you keep this in mind in planning for next season's counts?

## L.O.S. TIDBITS

LSUMZ EXPEDITION—Burt L. Monroe, Jr., L.S. U. graduate student, will depart for Africa on June 15 to collect specimens and materials for a proposed African waterhole exhibit. Nairobi, Kenya, will be the starting point for his safari. The display will include zebra, lion, several species of antelopes, and various birds. The expedition is being sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Eugene du Pont III. \*\*\* DISTINGUISHED VISITORS—

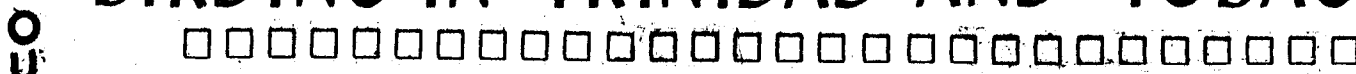
Mr. Jean Delacour, noted authority on the waterfowl of the world and author of a brand new book on doves and pigeons, was in Baton Rouge several weeks ago to visit Dr. Lowery and the LSUMZ. Dr. Albert Wolfson, Professor of Zoology at Northwestern University and a member of the L. O. S., recently gave a series of lectures at L. S. U. on his research studies dealing with the physiology of bird migration. \*\*\*SAD NEWS—Mr. W. W. Tennant, a longtime member of the Baton Rouge chapter, who with his wife has been fabulously successful in attracting rare hummingbirds, is in the hospital, seriously ill. Best wishes for a speedy recovery. \*\*\* TRANSIENT—Bob Krebs, an active L. O. S. or now residing in New Jersey, passed through Baton Rouge three weeks ago. He is the co-author of an interesting ornithological adventure to be found on the following page. \*\*\* IDEA FOR NEXT YEAR?—A trial Christmas census for the Baton Rouge area, organized by Bob Newman, has yielded 98 species. The count was conducted on various dates by one party covering different areas of the territory. Among the species encountered were Long-eared Owl, Groove-billed Ani, Black-headed Grosbeak, Sprague's Pipit, Rufous Hummingbird, Anhinga, and Common Merganser. \*\*\* AROUND THE MUSEUM—Burt L. Monroe, Jr., who seems to be going everywhere, talked to the local L. O. S. chapter on his recent expedition to New Zealand. An exhibit in the Museum of New Zealand's wildlife will be prepared by P. A. Daigre and associates, who have undertaken the task with vigor.

### LIL' ORPHAN ANI



PHE-E-E-W! If Christmas comes but once a year, why are there so many Christmas counts?

# ORNITHOLOGICAL TRAVELOGUE by Juanita and Bob Krebs BIRDING IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



**OUR FRIENDS** the Bert Schaughencys heard from Don Eckleberry, the bird painter, that Trinidad and Tobago were the birding spots of the Caribbean. The more we talked, the more exciting it sounded, and the result was four plane reservations and a letter to Mrs. Asa Wright reserving ourselves space at her cocoa plantation in the Arima Valley --1500 ft. up in the mountains, not far from Simla, William Beebe's experiment station. The plantation is ideally situated for birding, and Mrs. Wright (aged 70) is a remarkably capable and interesting hostess.

We arrived at Trinidad at night, and even in the car lights the mountain road up the Arima Valley looked fascinating, for we knew that in those forests and cocoa plantings were some cool birds. The next morning proved it. That day we got 34 lifers within a half mile of the house. From Mrs. Wright's large porch we saw four kinds of tanagers, three robins, two new swifts, two seed finches, two honeycreepers, at least one hummer, a Barred Ant-shrike, Tropical Mockingbirds, and more. A walk through her mango orchard took us into jungly woods on a fine wide path--completely free of snakes, ticks, and mosquitoes. In the morning these woods came forth with the squawks of the Mossy-throated Bell-bird, the whistle of the tinamou, cooing of trogons, the descending notes of a woodcreeper, and the clicks of dancing manakins. Sorting out these calls and linking them with their sources was a job and a thrill. It took a week to find the big bell-bird with the great big call -- and only Millie S. saw the tinamou.

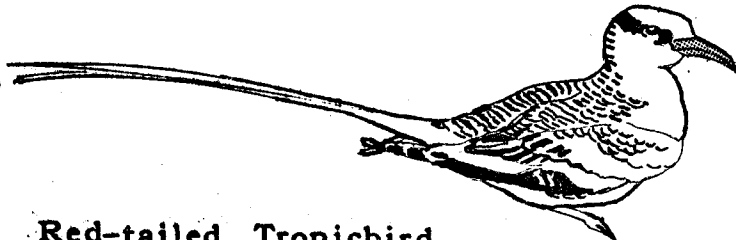
There was a gasoline strike on in Trinidad, so we took only one side trip, but that was a real one--to the Scarlet Ibis rookery in the Caroni swamp. In addition to several thousand of these gorgeous birds, the swamp yielded ten kinds of herons (best was the Boat-bill), jacanas, two Marsh Tyrants, Striped Cuckoo, hundreds of Fork-tailed Flycatchers, Greater Anis, and a dozen other lifers including the flashy

Red-breasted Blackbird and the talkative Cinnamon Spine-tail. The after-image you take away, however, is still that of those brilliant ibises.

There are spots on Trinidad we still must see. The savannahs have some rarities, and the Naribe swamp in the east has more, including Blue and Yellow Macaws. We chose, instead, to visit Tobago, and the choice was wise. That island is an unspoiled paradise. Fittingly, we stayed at the Bird of Paradise Inn at Speyside. The proprietor, Mr. Lau caters to birders who want to see the Birds of Paradise on Little Tobago, and he sees that they have good birding on the mainland. Best of all is the Ruby-topaz Hummingbird outside the window in their lovely garden, but not far behind are the motmots, jacamars, and Blue-backed Manakins in the woods near-by. Almost everything is new, but after a few days flocks of oropendulas remind you of crows, and you expect Blue-gray Tanagers to squeak up instead of Cardinals or Catbirds back home.

We don't have space to describe the trip into the cave to see the Oil-birds, but I would like to mention the Birds-of-paradise on Little Tobago. They're hard enough to find, and spectacular enough to yield plenty of excitement. And the trip also permits you to see Brown boobies, Red-billed Tropic birds, and Sooty Terns nesting; a bargain, nicht?

We felt we had had a perfect vacation, and can heartily recommend the two islands, Mrs. Wright's, and the more elegant B. of P. Inn to our birding friends. We can't say, however, that it beats an L.O.S. meeting at Cameron. Wish we could come to one.



Red-tailed Tropicbird