

LOUISIANA  
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SOCIETY



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H. H. J.

We always hate to lose old friends, particularly when they happen to be top birders, so we're doubly sorry to report that Horace Jeter has transferred the scene of his activities to San Francisco. For years, Horace has been the mainstay of field observations in the Shreveport area, a generous contributor to Audubon Field Notes and compiler of the Shreveport Xmas Count. He is an Ex-President of the LOS, a consistent participant at meetings and field trips and his excellent color movies and talks have brightened more than one of those meetings.

His tireless and accurate field work has added several species to the state list, including the Smith and the Chestnut-collared Longspur and the Grey-headed Junco. He made the first observations of the Bell Vireo's nesting in the state and has a great many seasonal occurrence and other records to his credit. In fact, we have a sneaking hunch that Horace feels he's "birded out" Louisiana and that the Pacific Coast looks like a greener pasture. We can see him now honing up that fine technique of his and looking about for new fields to conquer.

Where will that first vacation take you, Horace? Alaska, Hawaii or Baja California? Give us a report now and then - we'll be waiting to hear from you.

SORRY, BUT THE EDITOR RAN OUT OF NEWS AND

HAD NOTHING TO PUT IN THIS SPACE.

CAMERON MEETING COMING UP

The Spring Meeting of the LOS will be held this year again at Cameron. Last year's gathering produced the largest group yet at that famous birding spot, and we hope that we'll have another crowd even larger. The exact date will be announced in plenty of time for making arrangements but, based on past experience, it should fall in the last half of April.

Members who have been to Cameron on former field trips need no sales talk on its attractions. Those who have not yet birded there in the spring owe it to themselves to give it a whirl. Just in case you've forgotten, the 1961 group turned up 184 species on the day of the meeting. How about helping to top that mark this year?

-- WE'LL SEE YOU AT FRED'S --

IMPORTANT !

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN - 1962 dues are now payable. If you haven't already taken care of this important item, STOP reading this and DO IT NOW. Just put \$1.00 in an envelope and send it to:

Mrs. H.A.J. Evans,  
1144 Calhoun St.,  
New Orleans 18, La.

While we're talking about this, have you ever considered becoming a life member? For only \$25.00, you become a member in good standing for the rest of your life with no further payment of dues ever. How about it?

## THE BIG FREEZE

Evening Grosbeaks in Louisiana - that is a fair indication of the type of weather that engulfed the state in mid-January. The most frigid temperatures of the 20th century brought readings of  $-1^{\circ}$  to Monroe,  $12.5^{\circ}$  to New Orleans and  $4^{\circ}$  to Covington, just across the lake from New Orleans. Bursted water pipes, ruined vegetation and kids underfoot while schools stayed closed are now unhappy memories, but at least some birders enjoyed a bonus of unusual species.

The only one new to the state was the Evening Grosbeak, seen and collected for the first time by LOS member James B. Avant of West Monroe. In a letter to Dr. Lowery he gives details of this historic occasion - "On Tuesday, Jan. 9, heavy snow fell all day in the Monroe area, and the temperature dipped into the teens - it was not higher than  $19^{\circ}$  again until Friday when it reached  $33^{\circ}$ , and with an overnight low of  $-1^{\circ}$ . Large snow patches were still present Sunday A.M., and no fewer than 16 species were observed at the three feeding stations in my yard on Saturday. At 8:30 A.M. Sunday, my wife called me to look at a different kind of bird in our yard. To my great surprise, there were four beautiful birds that I had never seen before. Two were eating voraciously from a feeder of sunflower seeds and two others were on the ground eating very small grain seeds placed there for the Juncos and Sparrows. A careful check showed them to be Evening Grosbeaks. Unfortunately, they left the yard about 9:00 A.M.

I borrowed an air rifle to try to collect one if they should return--there are houses nearby in all directions, prohibiting the use of a shotgun. At 10:25 one bird returned, lighting about 25 feet up in the gum tree. I fired one shot with the air rifle and he flew a few feet directly in line with the big tree trunk. I knew it would be safe to use the shotgun so got it and fired through the opened sliding glass door. Although I kept a close watch for the next several days, none of the birds returned. The Grosbeaks had seemed quite tame, but all the other birds in the area seemed quite shy of them except the Purple Finches."

Reports from other sections of the state are few, but one, if correct, indicates a real

ornithological disaster. Preliminary inspections showed numbers of dead Roseate Spoonbills near the Gum Cove colony in Cameron Parish and it may be that the entire population of about 500 was wiped out. Heavy losses were also reported from the various White Ibis roosts throughout the state. Despite the apparent losses, a huge flock was seen in the vicinity of Slidell a week after the freeze. The Woodcock does not seem to have sustained any particular loss. They were found migrating from the Shreveport area in strength during the freeze and coming into the coastal region in search of unfrozen ground.

Jim Stewart reports from Shreveport that the period produced nothing unusual except a Rough-legged Hawk seen by him on January 13 and a typical dark-phase Harlan's Hawk seen by him on January 7 and 12. No longspurs or Horned Larks were seen anywhere in the area. Baton Rouge, on the other hand, had great numbers of Lapland Longspurs and several small flocks of Horned Larks.

Another report of extreme interest was the second Evening Grosbeak record, this one from near Amite which is far south of the birds found by Mr. Avant. Mrs. Virginia Cazedessus found a flock on January 27 feeding on salt which had been sprinkled on a highway bridge.

Bob Moore has sent in another observation which may not be connected with the big freeze but is nevertheless coincidental with it. This was a White-winged Scoter on January 13 on a borrow pit along the Mississippi River across from St. Francisville. The bird, a male, was seen in company with several Hooded Mergansers and permitted close observation by Bob, Mrs. Hazel Carpenter and Miss Laura Moore. This may not be the first inland record for La. but it is certainly an unusual one as this species is rarely seen except on the open Gulf.

Dr. Henry Haberyan of Gulfport, a Director and a Life Member of the LOS, is a man who believes that birds are fine for watching, but whose interest doesn't stop there. He is pursuing an intensive program of bird banding and, for a newcomer to the field, has done what strikes us as a remarkable job. From a standing start on May 25, 1961 and going through the end of the year, he succeeded in banding 1009 birds of 91 species.

## BIRDING IN HAWAII, by Mrs. Amy Tolman

Previous to going to the Hawaiian Islands last summer, I sent for a book on Hawaiian birds published by the Hawaiian Audubon Society as I understood that the bird life of the islands was entirely different from that of the mainland. This book listed 58 species, those "most commonly seen in Hawaii", as the Hawaiian water birds, native land birds and the introduced birds, not including extinct birds.

Our hostess introduced me to my first species, the Red-billed Leiothrix (*Leiothrix lutea*), which was nesting right under our window. One could not stay long in Hawaii without becoming acquainted with the Indian Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) introduced in 1865 to destroy pests and still doing that but disliked by many because it is gregarious and noisy. In Honolulu one day I saw a bird, unmistakably a cardinal, fly down from a tree to the sidewalk. This was the spectacular Brazilian Cardinal (*Paroaria cristata*), introduced in 1928. The Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) was quite common but on Waikiki Beach one day the smaller and more attractive Barred Dove flew right into the restaurant and walked around fearlessly eating the crumbs intentionally put on the floor.

We were being taken around to see the islands and up on Kauai I was fascinated at the lighthouse at Kilauea Pt. to see the many Red-footed Boobies (*Sula sula*) nesting on the rocks below so that we looked down upon the nests, some with an egg and others with young in various stages of growth. On a rocky island offshore the Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*) was nesting but they were flying back and forth, often right above us. Driving along in midafternoon, my attention was drawn to the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) which habitually flies about a great deal in the daytime. Up at Waimea Canyon, we saw three White-tailed Tropicbirds (*Phaethon lepturus*), a 32" bird with tail streamers making up half its length, a familiar sight over the canyons and craters.

Down on the island of Hawaii we were the guest of the owner and operator of the Kona Hotel; he was very fond of birds and when he learned that I was also he said that he would take us into the mountains where we could see some of the native species. I must

confess that though he knew but few of the birds by name he had the keenest vision I have ever seen and not a bird escaped him; I simply could not see all that he could. Our first trip exclusively for birding was to the government game farm where they were propagating the Nene (*Branta sandvicensis*) up off the Saddle Road in the foothills of Mauna Kea. On the homeward route we stopped at favorable spots and saw the Hawaiian Crow (*Corvus tropicus*), the Amakiki (*Loxops virens*) and the Creeper (*Loxops maculata*). Another morning he appeared with lunch and we were off in a four-wheel drive jeep up into the foothills of an extinct volcano, Hualalai. We had been going to the upstairs front piazza of the hotel first thing in the morning hoping to get a view of Hualalai before the clouds settled over it. We had barely arrived at the end of the trail, elevation about 7500 ft., when the fog settled below us but we went birding just the same. For new birds we found the Apanane (*Himatione sanguinea*) and finally the beautiful Iiwi (*Vestiaria coccinea*) with the long-est "sickle" bill we had seen.

The next day we were out again in the jeep, going up a trail on to the wooded side of the mountain but it was not a day for birding and we drove over where they were taking out cinder dust to make tile. We did see the Hawaiian Hawk (*Buteo solitarius*) in light phase and, driving home, saw two more in the dark phase. A state park yielded the Elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis*), the native bird residing at the lowest elevation. Driving around we had seen the Japanese White-eye (*Zosterops japonica*), the Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), the Ricebird (*Lonchura punctulata*) and the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*).

While on Hilo, we found the Hawaiian or White-capped Noddy (*Anous minutus*), a tropical species like the other noddies. The Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*), the Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), the Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) and House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) were seen but did not seem common. But I had to wait until out on the Pacific, en route to San Francisco, to see the Black-footed Albatross (*Diomedea nigripes*) following the ship for three days and bringing my total number of species to 28, of which 24 were new ones to me.

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

### -REGULAR MEMBERS-

Chapman, Mrs.F.F.  
510 America St.,  
Covington, La.

Colvin, Mr.David Paul  
Mansfield, La.

Dotson, Bro. Barnaby  
St.Paul's High School,  
Covington, La.

Hebert, Bro. Ephrem  
St.Paul's High School,  
Covington, La.

Knobloch, Mrs.E.R.  
Braithwaite P.O.,  
Dalcour,La.

McGovern, Mr.James D.,Jr.  
709 The Warwick,  
New Orleans 40, La.

McGovern, Mr.Joel F.  
5952 Argonne Blvd.,  
New Orleans 24, La.

McGovern, Mr.Milton J.,Jr.  
5952 Argonne Blvd.,  
New Orleans 24, La.

Papale, Mr.A.E.,Jr.  
8012 Freret St.,  
New Orleans 18, La.

Papale, Mr.George  
8012 Freret St.,  
New Orleans 18, La.

Read, Mr.James Andrew  
1218 Fairway Drive,  
Kenner, La.

Read, Mr.Peter  
1218 Fairway Drive,  
Kenner, La.

### -CHANGE OF ADDRESS-

Carter, Mr.Dennis Lee  
857 8th St.,  
Boulder, Colo.

Jeter, Mr.Horace H.  
412 Green St.,Apt.3B,  
San Francisco 11, Calif.

## XMAS COUNT NEWS

Reports that have come in from the compilers of the various Christmas Counts all bear down hard on the same theme - a shortage of qualified observers. For the first time it was necessary to cancel the Sabine Refuge Count which has always been one of the nation's best. The Venice-Buras Count, a new one which showed great potential, was also scratched by a combination of too few participants and extremely foul weather. The St.Francisville Count, which in past years has produced the highest number of species of any completely inland area in the country, again showed a decline. Bob Moore sends some interesting figures for the last four years showing the relation between party hours on foot and number of species seen: 1958;54-109, 1959;36-101, 1960;27-99, 1961; 19-90.

Former LOS President Fr.J.L.Dorn turned in an excellent list from Mobile with only 4 observers. They found 141 species with an additional 7 during the count period. If he can ever put together a decent-sized group, he'll be hard to beat. Sidney Gauthreaux at New Orleans could only muster 9 people and, working in difficult weather, listed 104, including Bald Eagle, Burrowing Owl, Black-and-White, Yellow and Wilson's Warblers and Lark Sparrow.

Jim Stewart at Shreveport had 10 observers and a count of 95 species. The Common Merganser and Bachman's Sparrow were both first local December records. The count at Bayou Caddy-Pass Christian, Miss., in only its second year, did very well. W.H.Turcotte reports 123 species found by 12 observers. Prize of the day was a White-fronted Goose discovered at Lakeshore and collected by Lovett Williams. This was only the second Mississippi record and the first specimen.

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Bob Moore reports that six individuals of the Bronzed Cowbird were seen at Little Chenier on December 31. The party included Bob and Mary Ann Moore, Miss Laura Moore and Mrs. Hazel Carpenter and they were able to watch the birds at close range in bright sunlight. The red eye and the greenish gloss were very apparent, but the ruff at the back of the neck was not. This is probably the first La. observation of this species, but it was to be expected as it has been reported from the Houston-Galveston area.