

LOUISIANA  
ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY



No. 46

Lafayette, Louisiana

November 16, 1967

FALL CAMERON MEETING

The fall meeting of the LOS will be held in Cameron during the weekend of December 2 - 3, 1967. It was suggested, at the spring meeting, that we consider having the fall meeting before the opening day of the hunting season. (Some of the oil field roads are locked during the hunting season and thus unavailable to us.) The goose season opened on November 6 to be followed by the duck season on November 16. Consequently the only weekend in November not occurring during the open season would have been the first one and that was a trifle early for an LOS meeting. In addition your President had to be in Lafayette at that time for the University of Southwestern's first Audubon Wildlife Program of the season. The December 2 - 3 weekend was one of the two suggested in the 1967 Schedule of Events (LOS NEWS No. 43).

It would be wise to make reservations well in advance since sleeping accommodations usually are at a premium. Write directly to the Gulf Motel or Broussard's Motel in Cameron.

As in the past, the evening meal on Saturday will be at Fred's Restaurant in Cameron at 6 pm. The meeting will follow and there will be the usual compilation of

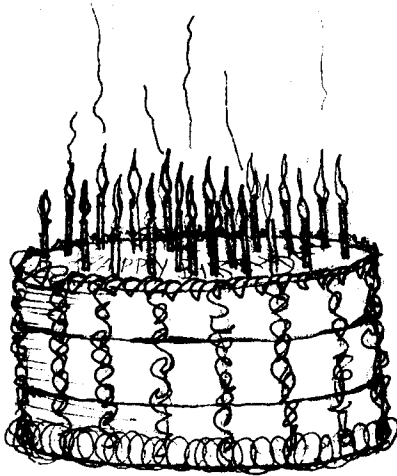
the birds observed during the day, as well as the election of new officers for 1968, followed by an enjoyable program which will include color slides and a movie about the Arctic.

Owl be seeing y'all in Cameron.



Marshall B. Eyster,  
President and Editor

## The First Twenty Years of the LOS



Three days after our Cameron meeting the LOS will be officially twenty years old. It was on December 6, 1947, that a group of bird enthusiasts met on the Tulane campus in New Orleans to organize the LOS, to draw up its constitution and to elect its first officers. On that auspicious occasion Earle Greene was elected President, George H. Lowery, Jr., Vice-President, and Dr. Gladys King, Secretary-Treasurer. Buford M. Myers, Robert M. Lockwood and Francis Eastman were elected to the Board of Directors. There were 34 charter members, mainly from New Orleans and Baton Rouge. These included in addition to those elected to office, Stanley C. Arthur (now deceased), Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cagle, Fr. J. L. Dorn, Bob and Juanita Krebs, Jean Lowery, John McBryde (now deceased), Dr. and Mrs. Robert Newman, and Arthur Van Pelt (now deceased). There were seventeen other charter members which are unknown to the editor since he did not arrive in Louisiana until 1950.

From these 34 charter members the LOS has grown so that we now number (as of October 1, 1967) 414 individuals plus three affiliated groups. Some of our members have left Louisiana and are now dispersed among 24 other states and two foreign countries. Texas leads in out-of-state members with 28; Mississippi is not far behind with 23. There are four members in

Alabama, North Carolina and New Jersey; three each in Arkansas, Kentucky and New York; two each in California, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri and South Carolina; and one each in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. The two foreign countries are Australia and Italy.

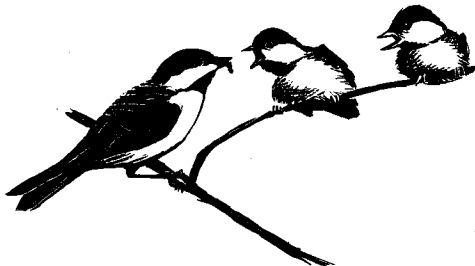
Your Editor feels that there should be some permanent record made of the officers that have served the LOS. Some of this information has been printed in the various editions of the LOS NEWS but since the first NEWS did not appear until December 1, 1954, there apparently is no printed record for the first six years of the LOS. Even the Secretary's files are lacking in this information. I have researched through my complete set of LOS NEWS and other sources and have located the names of the officers since 1953. Before that I have very little data. To make our records complete, and before these names are lost forever, brush the cobwebs from your cranium, dig out any old records you may have, and send these data to the Editor so that they can be placed in a future newsletter.

Past officers of the LOS in order—President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and three directors in parenthetic marks.

- 1947-48... Earl Greene, George H. Lowery, Jr., Gladys King, (Buford M. Myers, Robert M. Lockwood, Francis Eastman)
- 1948-49... Lowery (President); other officers unknown.
- 1949-50... All officers unknown.
- 1950-51... Rossiter D. Olmstead (Pres.) and probably Mary Ann Moore (S.-T); others unknown.
- 1951-52... Fr. J. L. Dorn (Pres.) and Mrs. Moore (S.-T); others unknown.
- 1952-53... Robert Krebs (Pres.) and Mrs. Moore (S.-T); others unknown.
- 1953-54... Bob Moore, Horace Jeter, Mrs. Moore, (William H. Baughn, John P. Gee, Dale Hamilton).

- 1954-55... Jeter (first Editor of LOS NEWS),  
Baughn, Mrs. Moore, (J. Harvey  
Roberts, Mrs. Claude L. Casey,  
William M. Shephard).
- 1955-56... Robert J. Newman (Editor), Gee,  
Mrs. James W. Reddock, (Hamilton,  
Dorn, Mrs. Harold A. J. Evans).
- 1956-57... Gee (Editor), Roberts, Mrs.  
Reddock, (Mrs. Evans, Miss Ava  
Tabor, Mrs. L. Loomis).
- 1957-58... Roberts (Editor), Mrs. Evans,  
Mrs. Jean Lowery, (Marshall B.  
Eyster, James R. Stewart, Mrs.  
Electa D. Levi).
- 1958-59... Stewart (Editor), Miss Tabor,  
Mrs. Lowery, (Ambrose Daigre,  
Mrs. Katherine Hearne, Miss Mary  
Lewis).
- 1959-60... Miss Tabor (Editor), Myers, Mrs.  
Lowery, (Daigre, Mrs. Hearne,  
Miss Lewis).
- 1960-61... Myers (Editor), Miss Lewis, Mrs.  
Evans, (Ellen A. Taylor, Ethel  
Jones, Charles L. Payne).
- 1961-62... Myers (Editor), Miss Lewis, Mrs.  
Evans, (Will Fullilove, Henry  
Haberyan, Stephen Russell).
- 1962-63... Miss Lewis (Editor, Russell,  
Mrs. Evans, (Gayle Strickland,  
Mrs. John Walther, Randolph A.  
Bazet).
- 1963-64... Russell (Editor), Haberyan, Mrs.  
Ralph Bodman (Ralph Andrews,  
Hugh Land, Larry O'Meallie).
- 1964-65... Andrews, Land (Editor), Mrs. Bod-  
man, (Payne, Strickland, Sidney  
Gauthreaux).
- 1965-66... Land (Editor), Eyster, Mrs. Bodman  
(Strickland, Gauthreaux, Robert  
LaVal).
- 1966-67... Eyster (Editor), Strickland, Mrs.  
Helga Cernicek, (Gauthreaux, LaVal.  
Stewart).

Please help fill in the blanks when we  
were still in our natal down.



### LOS Members Attend AOU

Your Editor and Mrs. Eyster were pleased to see so many LOS members at the American Ornithologists' Union meeting in Toronto, Canada, August 21-25. We had the opportunity of chatting with the following members and there may have been others that we did not meet. Sidney Gauthreaux, Earle Greene (the first president of LOS), Dr. & Mrs. Doug James, Dr. & Mrs. Douglas Lancaster, Dr. & Mrs. Hugh Land, Dr. & Mrs. George Lowery, Dr. Burt Monroe, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Robert Newman, Chandler Robbins and Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Russell.

LOS members who are not members of the AOU might consider joining. The AOU is the foremost professional ornithological society in the western hemisphere if not in the world. Dues are only \$5.00 per year and members receive the quarterly publication The Auk which covers every aspect of ornithology and will help keep one abreast of new ornithological discoveries and research. The AOU meeting next summer will be in Alaska and the following year probably in Fayetteville, Arkansas. At these meetings which are held annually in various locales in North America, usually in August, there are sessions where scientific papers, slides and movies are presented, and there are field trips and social gatherings. Most of the elite, ornithologically speaking, attend these conventions. They are informative and well worth one's time. At the AOU banquet Roger Tory Peterson presented his superb film about the Galapagos Islands.

Another outstanding bird group that usually holds its meeting east of the Mississippi is The Wilson Ornithological Society named in honor of Alexander Wilson, usually considered the "father of American ornithology." Their next meeting will be at Carbondale, Illinois, on May 2-5, 1968. Their 1967 meeting held in New Hampshire was attended by LOS members Sidney Gauthreaux and Dr. Robert Newman. They also have an excellent quarterly

publication called The Wilson Bulletin which is included in the \$5.00 dues. Anyone interested in joining either of these outstanding societies may contact your President for further details.

**Change of Address for our  
Secretary - Treasurer**

All membership dues, new memberships, and similar correspondence should be sent to

Mrs. Helga Cernicek  
Beauregard Junior High School  
4621 Canal Street  
New Orleans, La. 70119

Mrs. Amy S. Boyd  
821 S. Division  
Lake Charles, La. 70601

Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Fairbairn  
2015 Government St.  
Baton Rouge, La. 70806

Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Gibson  
417 Shell Beach Drive  
Lake Charles, La. 70601

Mr. and Mrs. Alec Gifford  
6813 Wilty Street  
Metairie, La. 70003

Dr. and Mrs. John K. Griffith, Jr.  
909 St. Anthony  
Lake Charles, La. 70601

Mrs. D. A. Hendry  
Rt. 2, Box 191  
Tiger Bend Road  
Baton Rouge, La. 70815

Mr. John V. Lynn  
9445 S. River Oaks Drive  
Baton Rouge, La. 70815

Mr. Kenneth Melville  
416 Central Avenue  
Apt. 7  
New Orleans, La. 70121

**FREE FOR THE ASKING**

. . . . For a folder describing all La. state parks, pamphlets on selected parks in this state, as well as an unusually clear Louisiana map published by the State Department of Highways, write to:

State Parks & Recreation Commission  
P. O. Drawer 1111  
Old State Capitol  
Baton Rouge, La. 70800

. . . . (Louisiana residents only) If you would like to receive the bimonthly magazine, LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST, send your name and address to:

Wild Life and Fisheries Commission  
400 Royal Street  
New Orleans, La. 70130

The title of this publication is something of a misnomer, as it leans heavily towards hunting and fishing interests. At the same time, it usually contains an article or two of interest to birdwatchers, as well as a regular feature called The Bird of the Month.



**Breeding Bird Survey**

Those of us who participated in the Cooperative Breeding Bird Survey in June found it challenging and worthy of our time and effort. It is hoped that more LOS members will be able to help out next June.

**Interested in a good movie?**

This fall marks the start of the 25th year that the National Audubon Society has

presented its excellent series of wildlife films. These movies will be shown in only two cities in Louisiana, Lafayette and Shreveport, during the 1967-68 season. For the benefit of those LOS members that live within commuting distance of these two communities we present their schedules.

Lafayette (all at 7:30 P.M.) (Angelle Hall-U. S. L. Campus)

Nov. 3, 1967, Friday, Waters and Wild-Life - Roy E. Coy

Dec. 16, 1967, Sat., Land That I Love, John E. Taft

Jan. 15, 1968, Mon., For Generations to Come, Howard L. Orians

March 5, 1968, Tues., The Real Yellowstone, Fran William Hall

April 2, 1968, Tues., New Zealand Spring, Olin Sewall Pettingill

Shreveport (evenings except Sunday afternoons)

Nov. 4, 1967, Sat., Missouri Northwest, Roy E. Coy

Dec. 15, 1967, Fri., Land That I Love, John E. Taft

Jan. 14, 1968, Sun., For Generations to Come, Howard L. Orians

March 1, 1968, Fri., The Real Yellowstone, Fran William Hall

April 7, 1968, Sun., New Zealand Spring, Olin Sewall Pettingill

#### **RARE BIRD CORNER**

##### Whooping Crane

Crip after his transfer last year from the New Orleans Zoo to the San Antonio Zoo has successfully mated with Rosie. Rosie laid eggs on June 7 and 9 both of which hatched but the first chick died shortly afterwards. In early June six crane eggs were removed from the nests of wild cranes in the Northwest Territories and taken to the Patuxent Research Center of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There was no apparent disruption of the adults incubating

the remaining eggs. One egg hatched en route and the chick died. The other 5 hatched at Patuxent and apparently are doing well. The reason for securing the wild eggs is to build up a captive breeding stock from which cranes can be reintroduced into the wild. Removing a single egg from a crane's nest probably has no effect on the wild crane population because even though the whooper's usually lay two eggs they rarely successfully fledge more than one young. Several weeks after the eggs had been removed eight baby whoopers were seen by helicopter on the nesting grounds in the Northwest Territories.

##### Roseate Spoonbill

Bills are pending in the Texas legislature to allow deep shell-dredging operations in Galveston Bay near to Vingt'un Island, which is an Audubon sanctuary and which contains the largest nesting colony of Roseate Spoonbills in North America. The National Audubon Society has pointed out that this dredging for oyster shells would raise havoc with the birds feeding grounds and would leave the sanctuary poorly protected from currents and waves which could destroy it in a hurricane.

##### Birds of Prey

This year both Arizona and North Carolina passed laws protecting all hawks and owls and thus they became the 25th and 26th such states.

##### Ivory-billed Woodpecker

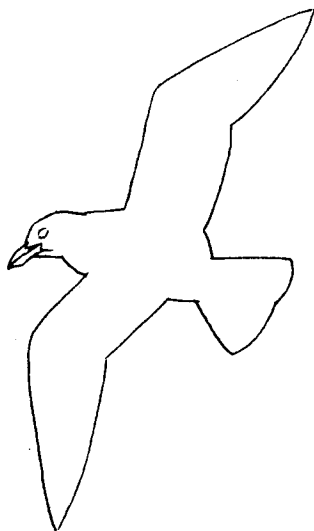
The report in early August that the Ivory-bill was not extinct was welcome news to all bird lovers. Mr. John V. Dennis working under contract for the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife confirmed reports of this rare bird in eastern Texas. He is supposed to have located "several pairs." He has written a full account of his find which will appear in the November-December issue of Audubon magazine.

Brown Pelican

The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is interested in determining the present status of the Brown Pelican in Louisiana and adjacent coastal areas. Your assistance in determining status and population trends is requested. Reports of observations giving exact locations and dates should be mailed to Charles R. Shaw, Supervisor, Game Section and P-R Coordinator, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, Capitol Station, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804. Any past observation of this bird during the past two years as well as any future records should be sent in. One Brown Pelican was reported from Cameron Parish on April 30 by Richard Ferren and party.

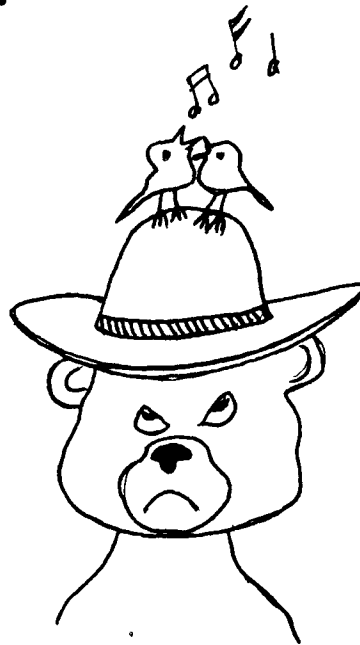
Oldest Bird

It appears that the Herring Gull holds the record as the oldest wild banded. A group of girl scouts last year found a Herring Gull in Michigan that had been banded as a chick in 1930 in Maine making the bird 36 years old. The previous apparent record was held by a Herring Gull from Europe that was 31 years, 11 months old.

Chuckle

Teacher: "Who can tell me what a bird banding net is made of?"

Young Student: "It's made of a lot of little holes tied together with a long string."



"On top of Old Smokey . . ."

Radio Program

According to Mrs. G. R. Gairbairn, a new LOS member, Radio station WJBO in Baton Rouge has a "Bird watching program." The M. C. is a Mr. Robyn Ewings. This 30-minute program was initiated last February and listeners are asked to call in and ask bird questions or just to talk about birds. They have had drawings and have given away several martin houses, parakeets, and several bird books. Our new member states that she won a copy of Dr. Lowery's "Louisiana Birds."

## A WEEKEND AT O'REILLY'S

by John P. Gee

In December we spent a weekend camping at "O'Reilley's." O'Reilly is the name of a family that pioneered the McPherson range south of Brisbane on the New South Wales border. The mountains are high by Australian standards (4-5000') and are rugged. They are covered by rain forest. The O'Reilleys cut tracks into the range and carried on their backs or on horses all the equipment needed for the farms they built. One of the sons gained prominence when in the 1930's he located a plane which crashed in the mountains. He saved the lives of two survivors and later wrote a fascinating book telling of his experiences and the wonders of his "green mountains." Later the family built a road and opened a guest house for bushwalkers and nature lovers. Finally, all of the land surrounding their farms was set aside as the Lamington National Park. It is one of the best places in Australia for seeing rain forest birds and other animals.

We went to O'Reilley's with Ivan and Joyce Fien who are natives of Brisbane. The drive up to the park was beautiful, but when we arrived it was raining so hard we thought we'd never be able to spend the night camping. Nevertheless, we stayed, birded, and by early afternoon it cleared and we enjoyed a beautiful weekend.

Because the birds around O'Reilley's are protected and fed, some have become amazingly tame. Dark blue male Satin Bower Birds and gold and black Regent Bower Birds hung around our camp waiting for scraps. Crimson Rosellas ate out of our hands and even perched on our shoulders. I think this rosella (a rather long-tailed, medium-sized parrot) is one of the most charming of Australian birds. It is bright red with large blue patches in the wings and tail. It is graceful and gentle and has pretty whistling notes. It is common in the eastern forests but likes the cooler re-

gions and in sub-tropical Queensland prefers mountain forests rather than inhabited lowland areas. In the south it lives even in parks and towns.

The Brush-turkey also walks calmly about the campground and the clearing surrounding the guest house. It is a mound-nest builder, a heavy, turkey-like bird with a bright red head and yellow wattle encircling the neck. When I finally located the first one in the bush near the campground and tried to stalk it, the bird turned around and walked right up to me, apparently hoping for a handout.

Not all the birds, however, are so tame. The McPherson Range is the home of some of Australia's shyest and most exciting birds--like the Atrichornis and the Albert Lyrebird. Saturday afternoon Ivan and I were walking through some second growth near a gully when we heard what sounded like a dog barking and a man chopping wood. We stopped and for a moment I thought I was home in Louisiana listening to a very talented Mockingbird. We realized it must be a lyrebird and decided to stalk it. I felt like Deerslayer in James Fenimore Cooper. We crawled on our hands and knees and even on our stomachs, but we were successful and saw it just as it saw us. It stopped singing and started running, but we were elated. Not many people have successfully stalked a singing male Albert Lyrebird.

I once saw the Superb Lyrebird run across the road near Canberra. Both species are strange--unforgettable--graceful but built differently from any other bird I have seen. The Superb is more widely distributed and it has the more showy tail. It is the bird famous for its portrait on postage stamps and whose marvelous mockery has been broadcast live from the wild on national radio.

The area where we camped was full of Topknot Pigeons, which are large (17") and

exotic. They are mostly grey and silvery but have an odd reddish-orange drooping crest, which sits on the back of the head like the mane of a concert conductor. They live in the treetops and are generally quite rare.

On Sunday both families hiked several miles to the escarpment on the New South Wales border. The views of the fertile valleys, the cliffs and the distant Pacific were indescribably beautiful. In this area we hiked through a forest of Antarctic beeches, which are said to be among the oldest living trees. They are gnarled and covered with green moss and ferns. It was here that I was scolded by Scrubbirds (the unique *Atrichornis*) and finally got a few glimpses of one bird after much squeaking on my part--and much scolding on its.

I can't describe all the handsome and strange birds that one may see at O'Reilley's, but I must mention the Rifle-bird, which is a close relative of the Bird-of-Paradise. They are very fancy and we saw three males within a half an hour on Sunday. Also, there were Wonga and Wompoo Pigeons, Bronze Cuckoos and Channel-billed Cuckoos (the largest of all cuckoos, I think), Spine-tailed Logrunners, Whistlers, Fantails, Currawongs, and many others.

Kangaroos are the dominant mammals in Australia, but one soon learns there are all kinds of kangaroos. The largest are called kangaroos, but there are also wallaroos, wallabies, pademelons, and ad infinitum (all arranged in order of size). The little pademelons were numerous around our camp. At dawn and at dusk dozens could be seen sitting on their haunches or hopping in the open areas.

The best thing about O'Reilley's is the unspoiled beauty of its forest and mountains. In our summer, which reached its peak at Christmas, the weather at O'Reilley's is cool and refreshing. The place is easily accessible from Brisbane and yet it is far from the crowds and noise of

the cities. It is a place I would like to take all of you for a visit.

