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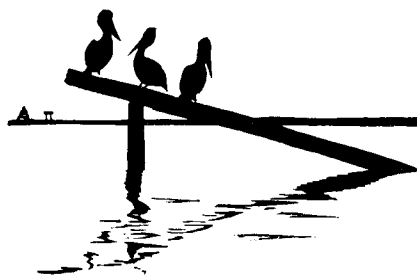
CAMERON FALL MEETING

The fall meeting of the L.O.S. will be held in Cameron during the week-end of 5-7 December 1969. Many members arrive in the area Friday night, check into a motel, ready for an active day of birding on Saturday. The business meeting will be held at Fred's Restaurant in Cameron on Saturday 6 December. At 8:00 PM, after dinner, the bird list will be compiled. Other formal business, including the election of club officers for 1970, will follow.

Persons unfamiliar with the Cameron area will do well to read or carry a copy of Dr. Eyster's "Birding in the Cameron Area" in LOS News No. 48. This article describes the better places for birding and how to get there. The big attraction to the Cameron locale is that there are many environments with their specific bird life that can be viewed in a day.

Motel accommodations are limited. Because of the hunting season and the short supply of motels it is best to make reservations. There are two motels in Cameron, Broussard's Motel and the Gulf Motel. Two others are at Rutherford Beach, about ten miles east of Cameron, the Gulf View and Rutherford Beach Motel. A new 4-unit motel is available at Hackberry. For those who

don't mind driving and can't find room near Cameron, Sulphur and Lake Charles have many motels. For the college students, the young at heart, outdoorsy types, camping areas can be found at Peveto Beach and the East Jetty.



MEMORIAL TO HUGH LAND

The Executive Board of LOS has voted in favor of a recommendation that a memorial fund be established for the 3 Hugh Land children. The LOS will open a savings account for a total of \$300., with the understanding that Dr. Land's widow is to divide this amount plus accrued interest equally among her 3 children for their college education as they reach college age.

WILDERNESS PROPOSAL FOR BRETON  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The wilderness proposal comprises 9,432 acres within the Breton National Wildlife Refuge in St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes, Louisiana. The Wilderness Act (1964) directs the review of every roadless area of 5,000 contiguous acres or more and every roadless island within the National Wildlife Refuge System. The proposal includes the lands of the Chandeleur chain from the north tip to and including the Stake Islands and Breton Island.

These refuge islands have been managed as natural areas since their establishment by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1904. No developments are present and none is planned. The islands are important as nesting islands for many thousands of terns, gulls, shorebirds, herons and egrets.

The main goal of refuge management has been the preservation and protection of natural conditions. This objective will remain the same in the future but will be strengthened by wilderness designation.

A public hearing is scheduled for 12 November 1969 at Chalmette, Louisiana, for the purpose of developing information with respect to the desirability of including the Breton Wilderness proposal in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The hearing will be over by the time this newsletter is printed but the Department of Interior encourages written expression at any time. In order to be incorporated in the official Wilderness Record, all communications should be mailed to the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Atlanta, Georgia 30323, by 27 December 1969.

BOOK REVIEWS

Curiosities of Bird Life by J. D. Macdonald, Derek Goodwin and Helmut E. Adler, Castle Books, New York, 1967.

Not a book for the birdwatcher who wants to know specific facts about a particular bird, but for the person who would like to know more about birds than just their song or color markings. The wide range of subject matter includes instinct and learning, anting, orientation, social life, anatomical features, adaptations for flight and an interesting chapter on feathers. Although the work neither sparkles with wit nor becomes ponderous with terminology, it does furnish the basic facts about many different kinds of birds.

Have you ever thought about the reason for the spaced egg-laying patterns in birds? Frogs, fish and some mammals produce many young at one time. Why not birds? One reason is because they fly and their weight is of vital importance. A clutch of unlaid eggs would increase the weight of the bird to such an extent that it would be either unable to fly or be greatly restricted in its movements. Eggs of the coot would increase its weight by 40%, the mallard by 60%, the red-headed woodpecker by 12%.

This book may be requested from your public library. (It was originally copyrighted in England in 1962.) Just in case you find an auk's egg in Great-aunt Minnie's attic, the author states that it is worth nearly 30 times its own weight in gold. Another invaluable tidbit is that should you find your hands cold in winter, just carry a quail in each hand. It seems that this is what the Chinese did under the folds of their long sleeves!

By Grace L. Eyster



Homes for Birds by E. R. Kalmbach and W. L. McAtee (revised by F. R. Court-sal and R. E. Ivers). U.S.D.I. Conservation Bulletin 14, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington, D. C., 1969. Price 20 cents.

This is a new revision of a very popular 18-page pamphlet. Various bird house designs are illustrated in simple line drawings. There is a useful table giving dimensions of nesting boxes for 26 species of birds that use them, and the height at which they should be placed. The types of birds that are attracted to houses are amply discussed. There are 2 interesting sections on protection from enemies and sanitation of bird houses.

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. H. Clarke  
2027 El Arbolita Drive  
Glendale, California 91208

Mr. Silas B. Cooper  
110 S. State Street  
Abbeville, La. 70510

#### ROYAL AND SANDWICH TERNS OF THE CHANDELEUR ISLANDS

The royal tern and the Sandwich or Cabot's tern are closely related and have similar habits. Both are in the genus *Thalasseus*. Their main nesting colonies in Louisiana have been found on the coastal islands east of the Mississippi River. Lowery (1960) calls the Sandwich tern "a rare to locally common summer resident and breeder" and the royal tern "a common permanent resident." Old records, and even those in the early 1960's, indicate that the Sandwich tern appears to be increasing and now outnumbers the royal.

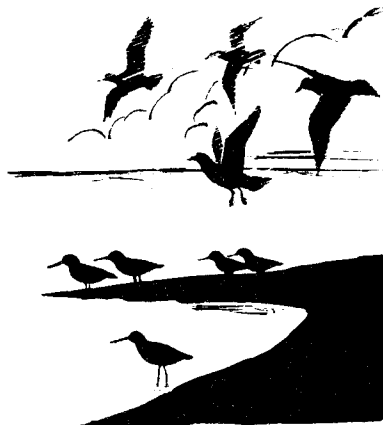
The Chandeleur Island chain and some of the associated nearby islands traditionally have been the nesting sites for both species. Bent (1921) estimated 7,000 royal and 2,000 Sandwich terns nesting on Grand Gosier (Chandeleurs) in 1910. Oberholser (1938) visited this island in 1933 but found no breeding pairs. Oberholser found 13 separate royal tern colonies on Errol Island (Chandeleurs) with a total of 8,400 nests. This island now submerged is now called Errol Shoals. He estimated 1,880 Sandwich tern nests with eggs.

Since 1960 the main nesting colonies have been found on Curlew and Stake Island. During some years a few hundred were found nesting on North Island. The Chandeleur Islands are part of the Breton National Wildlife Refuge under the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Bureau personnel have been surveying tern populations within the refuge boundaries since 1961. On 7 June 1961, I estimated 5,000 royal nests and 3,000 Sandwich tern nests on Curlew Island. John Walther estimated 2,000 young royal terns and 2,300 young Sandwich terns in 4 colonies in 1962. I found 700 royals and 6,000 Sandwich tern nests on Curlew Island on 2 June 1965. In 1968, the population

jumped to 3,100 royal tern nests and 28,000 Sandwich on Curlew Island. In 1969 the terns moved to Stake Island where 43,000 Sandwich tern nests and 3,300 royal tern nests were found in three colonies.

The nesting populations in 1968 and 1969 were estimated by measuring the total area occupied by the tern colonies. The tern nests are quite evenly spaced within the colony and by sampling the number of nests per square yard we were able to determine the total population. The Sandwich tern occupies about one foot of area and the royal slightly more. Both species nest in depressions which are formed by the birds in the sand. The area chosen is usually flat and above most high tides. The area is generally devoid of vegetation though in 1969 part of the colony nested on flattened drop-seed grass.

Both species lay only one egg. Occasionally 2 eggs may be found in one nest but Stanley Arthur (Bent, 1921) claims that only one is incubated. Most popular bird books claim that the Sandwich tern lays two or one to three. The error probably began with Bent (1921) who stated that the normal set was two, rarely three. Bent accepted his boat captain's statement that both the royal and Sandwich "usually lay two eggs at the first laying and only one on the second." Bent himself saw the Sandwich tern colony on Grand Gosier, stating "nearly all of the nests held one egg each, but a few held two." Stanley Arthur (Bent, 1921) saw "several thousand single speckled eggs." He really didn't mean they're single-speckled because they're many-speckled but that each nest depression contained one egg. In 1968, I counted nests and eggs and found 95% of 250 nests held one egg. In 1969 I found that 531 nests (98.5%) contained one egg and only eight (1.5%) held two eggs.



A few sooty terns have been associated with the royal and Sandwich terns. The first recent record of sooty terns in Louisiana was of two collected on Curlew Island 5 June 1933 (Lowery, 1960). Jerry Blackard found the first nest in 1964. Eight nests were found in 1967 by Sidney Gauthreaux and party. On 22 May 1969 I found five nests on the beach north of the tern colony on Stake Island. One contained two eggs, which is unusual with this species. Dr. Marshall Eyster, Mike Musumeche, and Don Mills found 11 nests in this same area on 4 June. The large colony on the Dry Tortugas at the south tip of Florida, is probably the nearest colony in the United States.

On 17 August 1969 Hurricane Camille's storm center passed directly through the Chandeleurs causing a tremendous amount of erosion to the islands. What this will mean to the tern colony remains to be seen but let us hope that the islands will build up again and the terns will continue to nest.

by Jacob M. Valentine, jr.

# FLASH !

Following the printing of the enclosed issue of the LOS News, there has been an unfortunate development with regard to scheduling the Fall Meeting of the LOS in Cameron. Several construction projects in the parish have preempted most, if not all, available rooms in the motels in Cameron. Consequently the officers of the society propose that instead of trying to find lodging in Cameron itself we stay at the Holiday Inn in Lake Charles. After spending Saturday, 6 December, birding in Cameron we can then all return to the Holiday Inn for our dinner and program that night, which has been scheduled to begin promptly at 7:30 p. m. Rates in the Holiday Inn are: single rooms, 1 person 1 bed, \$9.00; 2 persons 1 bed, \$12.00; 2 persons 2 beds, \$14.00; 3 to 4 persons 2 beds, \$16.00. The Inn has agreed to serve a buffet at \$3.00 per person. Each member planning to attend should make his own reservation now directly with Holiday Inn, US Highway 90 E, telephone number Area 318, 433-6381. If there is an Inn in your town you can make your reservations through it.

At the dinner on Saturday night George and Jean Lowery will tell us about their recent trip to Africa, illustrating their talk with color slides of some of the 331 species that they saw. Their pictures have been described as "superb" and "of National Geographic quality" by several who have already seen them.

## NEW ORLEANS CHRISTMAS COUNT

The Crescent Bird Club of New Orleans will once again run a Christmas Census in the area. The tentative date is Saturday, 20 December. Volunteers are needed to fill out the parties, as well as some people to lead them. If you are interested and think you can attend, call or write either one of the following immediately:

Dr. Robert D. Purrington (CBC President)  
4700 Bissonet Drive  
Metairie, Louisiana 70003  
Area 504, 388-3607

Mr. Joseph C. Kennedy (CBC Vice-President)  
13717 Chef Mentour Highway, Apt. 203  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70129  
Area 504, 254-1227