

terns were white with a light gray color on the back. When flushed they were observed not to have a forked tail, but only a slight dip in it. Standing, they reminded us of Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) that we have seen on the coast. The Gull-billed and the Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) are the only two species of terns that have a thick bill and an unforked tail. Therefore, the size between the two would separate the species if a great underestimate in size was not made. This is the first inland record for this species. Imhof says, "It is an uncommon summer resident on the Gulf Coast, and it breeds in southern Mobile County" (Alabama Birds, p. 275). Therefore, Gull-billed Terns outside of the coastal area would be rare, but a careful study was made of the birds and many books explored for descriptions of them and we feel that it is a correct identification.

Stilt Sandpipers

On 18 May 32 Stilt Sandpipers were observed first by Jack Carusos and Andy Bates and then found by Harriett Wright, Ricky Kittinger, Ronnie Kittinger, Bob Reid and Mike Bierly. The birds were in the same pond that the Gull-billed Terns had been observed the previous day. The Stilt Sandpipers were in spring plumage with a reddish brown eye stripe and crown stripes, and heavy barring on the breast. The legs were greenish-yellow. The birds were evidently very tired as one flew in to land on the mud flat, hit it and just lay there with its left wing extended. Two others were observed to be just sitting in the water. The rest were busily feeding, some emerged up to their bellies. The feeding was by constant probing into the water and on the mud flat. Several times it was observed that the birds were completely submerged when probing. After about an hour they slowed down and most went to sleep. Photographs were secured by Harriett Wright. This is the second Upper Coastal Plain record and the first spring inland record (Alabama Birds, p. 254).

The foregoing is a description of observations at Marion Fish Hatchery on 17 and 18 May 1969. The unusual and violent weather probably accounted for the presence of these birds at the hatchery. It seemed as if we were birding on the Gulf Coast instead of the Upper Coastal Plain and will probably have to go a long time before such a group of birds out of normal terrain will be seen again.

Andrew K. Bates
757 80th Place South, Birmingham, 33206
Michael Lee Bierly
3826 Bedford Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37215

MINUTES OF SPRING MEETING ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY APRIL 11-13, 1969

The regular spring meeting of AOS was held the week-end of April 11-13, 1969. Dauphin Island, with headquarters at Storey Apartments. Members and visitors from many states, the farthest being Maine, were present.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

The Executive Council meeting was held during lunch at Le Moyne Restaurant and called to order by Helen Kittinger, President. The following officers and directors were present: Helen Kittinger, Clara Caffee, Sybil Hanks, Idalene Snead, Tom Imhof, Jim Keeler, Dr. Gaillard, Bob Reid, Harriet Wright, Mary Burks, Bernice Smalley, and Mr. John Anderson of National Audubon Society from Sharon, Connecticut.

The Secretary read the minutes which were approved after a minor correction.

Sybil Hanks, the Treasurer, read the annual financial report for the period from April 20, 1968, to April 12, 1969, stating that there was a balance of \$833.07 in the treasury.

Reports from the various regions and committees are as follows:

State-at-Large

Tom Imhof asked that news items be sent in while they are still news. Send in arrival dates so that Tom can have a complete picture of the different arrivals over the state and this information can be put in Alabama Birdlife. Tom also told of Mr. Weston's death in Florida.

Gulf Coast Region

Dr. William Gaillard told about the problems on which he is working through several organizations including the Mobile Bird Club, AOS, and Alabama Wildlife Federation. Some interests are wanting to subdivide about 164 acres which are now set aside for birdlife. In order to avert this, some sort of development must be done on the land, such as planting food patches. Dr. Gaillard suggested that for each copy of "Moving the Earth for a Song" sold by Alabama Federation of Wildlife he would contribute one dollar to be put in a general fund to be used for averting the loss of some of the Dauphin Island area. A motion was made by Bernice Smalley

and passed that AOS participate in the Alabama Federation of Wildlife's sale of Dr. Gaillard's book for this purpose. Dr. Gaillard introduced Mr. John Anderson of the National Audubon Society, who has been most helpful with these problems.

Coastal Plain Region

Jim Keeler said that there was no definite report, but that he had written Walter Rosene about the Red Cockaded Woodpeckers' nests. Walter Rosene replied that he would be glad to save these nests for Jim Keeler after he had finished taking pictures of them.

Piedmont and Eastern Mountain Region

No definite report. Bob Reid stated that Dr. Calvert had called and offered to send in a resignation since he had been unable to attend the meetings as often as he had hoped. However, Bob Reid suggested that it would be better for Dr. Calvert not to resign.

Central Region

Harriet Wright stated that there was no definite report.

Tennessee Valley

No report.

Slide Committee

Bob Reid's report on this committee is included at the end of these minutes.

Nominating Committee

The following slate of officers was presented by Bob Reid for the nominating committee: President, Walter Coxe; Vice President, Dr. E. B. Sledge; Treasurer, Sybil Hanks. This slate was unanimously accepted.

Old Business

There was no further information on the hawk legislation.

New Business

Helen Kittinger made a motion, which was seconded and passed, that a Memorial Resolution be made for Blanche Chapman and one for Francis M. Weston, and that a copy be sent to their families.

For the fall meeting, Tom Imhof suggested some area between Montgomery and the Florida State line. This would be a new site and should prove to be very productive, Tom thought, the date to be set later.

After considering all possible dates and conflicts for the spring meeting in 1970, it was decided the second week-end in April would be the most suitable.

Mary Burks reported on a meeting of the Air Pollution Board where she represented the Birmingham Audubon Society. Their purpose was to try to write a model anti-air-pollution bill. If this couldn't be done, next they would try to defeat the Torbert Bill. Mary Burks asked that we endorse the bill that Senator Richard Dominick of Birmingham and Jack Giles of Huntsville propose. She also requested that we write letters to our own legislators telling them that we want a strong, enforceable law with teeth in it.

After this, the meeting adjourned.

PROGRAM

The delicious seafood buffet was held at the Dauphin Island Civic Building and was served by members of all the civic groups on the island. After the drawings for the door prizes, a motion was made and carried to dispense with reading the minutes. Sybil Hanks read the Treasurer's report, which was audited and approved by the auditing committee. The slate of officers, presented and unanimously accepted for 1970, was President, Walter Coxe; Vice President, Dr. E. B. Sledge; Treasurer, Sybil Hanks.

Dr. Oliver B. Austin, Jr. presented the program, "Highlights of the Fourteenth International Ornithological Congress. Dr. Austin also showed beautiful slides of this meeting, held at Oxford, England, and of the cruise around the outer bird islands of Scotland.

FIELD TRIPS AND COMPILATION

Saturday and Sunday morning there were informal field trips to the Bird Sanctuary where Margaret Miller, Tom Imhof, Mike Bierly, and Tuck Hayward were banding birds. Other trips were to the Shell Mounds, always popular, Pelican Point, the Causeway, west end of Dauphin, and the Mainland.

Compilation was held on Sunday morning in front of the Storey Apartments with Robert Reid acting as compiler.

Idalene F. Snead
Secretary

Report of Slide Collection Committee

Tentative rules for operation of the slide collection were adopted at the 1968 AOS Spring Meeting. Since then, the committee has held two meetings: One on March 1, 1969, at the home of Bob and Elberta Reid in Birmingham; and the other on March 15, 1969, at the home of Helen and Keith Kittinger also in Birmingham.

Out of a total list of 360 species, the committee has selected one or more slides for 136. Slide reproductions authorized thus far number 262, which, at the rate of 25 cents per slide provided for in the tentative rules, represents a commitment of \$65.50.

Since the 1968 Spring Meeting, Dr. Julian Dusi has resigned from the committee and Mr. Charles T. Traylor of Tuscaloosa has been appointed. Other members of the committee, in addition to the chairman, are Helen Kittinger, Harriett Wright and Tom Imhof of Birmingham, Fairly Chandler of Magnolia Springs, Jim Keeler of Montgomery and Jim Robinson of Brownsboro. The committee wishes to express its appreciation to Mr. Perry Covington of Birmingham for his technical advice and for the number of excellent slides he has submitted.

Submitted at the 1969 Spring Meeting on Dauphin Island on April 12, 1969.

Robert R. Reid, Jr.
Chairman

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Treasurer's report for period:

April 12, 1969 – August 25, 1969

INCOME:

Dues	\$302.00
Registrations	62.00
Excess cash from Spring Meeting	2.25
Total	<u>\$366.25</u>

EXPENSES:

Birdlife: (Birmingham-Southern College)	\$180.00
Treasurer's Expenses (Sybil Hanks, postage & postcards)	14.50
Meetings	62.17
2 complimentary dinners,	6.30
Holiday Inn Riviera (D.I.)—lodging	
2 nights, Dr. and Mrs. Oliver Austin, Jr.	29.12
Helen Kittinger, door prize	11.75
Mr. Wesley Kubichek, films	15.00
* Miscellaneous	4.07
Total	<u>\$260.74</u>

SUMMARY:

Balance in checking acct./April 12, 1969	\$532.02
Income	366.25
	<u>\$898.27</u>
Expenses	260.74
Total	<u>\$637.53</u>
Balance fwd. August 25, 1969	<u>637.53</u>

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND IN B.T.N.B.:

5 memberships at 50.00 each	\$250.00
Interest as of May 30, 1969	57.07
Total	<u>\$307.07</u>