

## THE PESTICIDE FIGHT

(From National Audubon)

● Last February 26th the House of Representatives turned back an attempted raid on the National Forests by the timber industry (See National Outlook in *Audubon*, May 1970). Four months later President Nixon, by executive order, directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to "formulate plans to improve the level and quality of management of forest lands under their jurisdiction in order to permit increased harvest of softwood timber consistent with sustained yield, environmental quality, and multiple-use objectives." As recommended by the Task Force on Softwood Lumber and Plywood (an industry tool), the President said that "such plans should take cognizance of the increased requirements for timber to meet our housing goals." In a bitter letter to House colleagues, Representative John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania (a Republican) complained that after failing in Congress, the lumber lobbyists went to the White House. The result, said Saylor, was the President's directive to do by "executive fiat" what could not be done legislatively.

● Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin told the U.S. Court of Appeals on June 29th that he did not intend to suspend sales of DDT in the United States until his department had completed "use-by-use evaluations now in progress." The National Audubon Society, Environmental Defense Fund, and other conservation organizations had sued to force the Secretary's hand. Hardin's response was to Chief Judge David L. Bazelon's order to suspend DDT or give the court reasons for "his silent but effective refusal" to do so.

● In contrast to the hesitancy of his cabinet colleague, Interior Secretary Hickel banned all uses of DDT, Aldrin, dieldren, endrin, DDD, mercurial

## ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

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### ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

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compounds, and 2,4,5-T on the 534,000,000 acres of public lands managed by Department of the Interior bureaus. Hickel also put 32 other chemicals and classes of chemicals on a "restricted list," allowing them to be used only under careful control and limited circumstances.

## THANK YOU, MR. LeGRAND

NOW COMES A REPORT which ought to give Alabamians who love the state's natural beauties no less than the Yankee dollar some second thoughts on development.

The U. S. Department of Interior had a survey made of the economic impact of the Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts upon the neighboring areas. The firm which did the work said the findings were about what could be expected at any national park site.

The study found the seashore park increased nearby private land values 106 per cent in the first eight years of the park's existence. Wages rose from \$8.2 million to nearly \$14 million a year; population grew from 12,000 to 17,000 and tourist-industry jobs rose nearly 50 per cent in nearby towns.

The nation's most-visited National park continues to be the one in the Great Smoky Mountains on the Tennessee-North Carolina border. Tourists flock to its paths and campgrounds as they flock to the Cape Cod seashore to enjoy what nature has created rather than what man has provided. The Natural area is the big attraction. The money is made in natural areas.

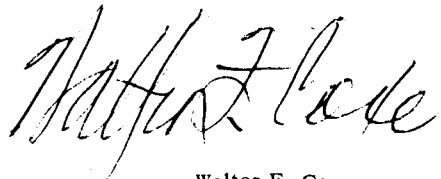
Alabama has some magnificent park land. Kept in as near its natural state as possible it should attract many visitors. The guests might well pay to sleep, to eat, to swim and to play golf in the nearby communities which serve the communities near the parks. If the parks are spoiled by too much construction, by too many efforts to improve on nature, Alabama could end up having spent a lot of money and failed to get the tourists after all.

If it shows nothing else, the Cape Cod survey demonstrates that keeping natural areas unspoiled can be very good business indeed. Those who would preserve the wonders of Alabama's still largely natural parks now have some good arguments for keeping them as they are and adding recreation and other facilities outside.

## Trying to Improve on Nature Not Very Smart

Concludes Editor Duard LeGrand of the Birmingham Post of June 6th, 1970. Prefacing his remarks with the new acknowledged fact of "the understandable desire of most Alabamians to increase state income by acquiring more of the tourist dollars" Editor Legrand urges some clear thinking on the methods that get the dollars. We are reproducing a portion of Mr. Legrand's editorial. Read it. It makes the kind of sense that naturalists understand and the kind of cents that business people understand.

All of us who have been involved in the efforts to keep our waters clean ...and there was a time they were not polluted...our air breatheable...our forest green and producing wood products in all reason...preserving our wildlife and game...preserving the quantity of our birds...keeping fish in our streams and lakes...and every child who (Just walking in Alabama woods) breathes a sign of wonder... say thank you Mr. Legrand for putting the power of your pen and your paper behind Alabama's most valuable and precious assets.



Walter F. Cox,  
President

\* Gov. Brewer's 1970 Bird Day Proclamation pointed out that every single bird that flies has an economic value of more than twenty-five dollars.

Dr. Dan C.  
Holliman  
Editor



ALABAMA  
BIRDLIFE



## THE SEASON SUMMER 1970

Compiler and Editor—Thomas A. Imhof

A season is always easier to evaluate a year later, yet everyone wants his news while it is still new. This is because the reader that receives his information quickly can still see the effects of what he reads about and can act on the news he gets.

The communication channel works about like this. The local observer reports his bird records to a local compiler where possible, such as Mary Gaillard, Curtis Kingsbery, or Andy Bates. Some of these local compilers in turn produce a local season column such as "Sight On Sound Off" or the Mobile Club's "Observations". Your state compiler makes a summary of these season columns, of letters he receives direct from some observers, of remarks, phone calls, and any other method of receiving bird records: then produces a season column like this one of records and remarks of interest to the bird people of Alabama. A copy of this column is forwarded to the Central Southern Region Editor who extracts records of regional or national interest, combines them with records from Arkansas, Northwest Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and most of Tennessee, and submits it to Audubon Field Notes for publication. The Changing Seasons Editor of Audubon Field Notes receives reports from each of 20 Regions and combines them into a picture of the birdlife for one season for 49 of the states (except Hawaii) and the southern half of Canada.

This whole information structure depends on the local observer, who reports what he sees accurately and promptly, and on an editor, who is an observer willing to sacrifice some of his field time for a lot of desk time. Then, if all the observers, editors, printers, mailmen, etc. work right, each bird student knows what his buddy in the next town, or county, or state is seeing soon enough for the information to be useful to him.

During the summer season, the Breeding Bird Survey gathers a larger fund of significant information on birds than any other project. It is a shame that the very magnitude of the project prevents us from taking advantage of this information quickly enough for the summer season report. What we need is a computer that fills out its own forms, programs itself, types its own instructions, and is available free to bird watchers.

The weather continues a five-year trend of negatives—departures from normal temperature and precipitation are below normal. June with 3.7" below average was the coolest summer month, in large part due to drizzling, overcast weather. It was a dry month in spite of the 1.53-inch rain of the 2nd. August had 2.16 inches above normal precipitation due in large part to 2.99 in. on the 9th and 1.64 in. on the 10th. Since then signs of dryness show in shallow-rooted plants and ground pools. We have so destroyed our ability to take advantage of these heavy rains that we often live in drought conditions when we should not. Huge areas of highway, parking lot, filled-in swamp, channelized stream, and felled tree have robbed the land of its sponge-like ability to store water from drenching rains and release it gradually in dry periods.

The effect of all this weather on breeding birds cannot as yet be determined. However it is probably true that the more normal the weather, not only of the breeding season but of the preceding year, the more normal the production of young.

**Loons, Grebes, Pelicanlike Birds**—Com Loons at Lake Oliver, near Phenix City, on 30 May (JM) and at East Lake, B'ham on 31 May (GCC) are the latest definite spring migrants for the state. One on 28 June near Lock 17, Black Warrior R. (DDJr) was most likely summering locally. Of the regularly summering Pied-billed Grebes, at least 3 pair were known to produce young this year. Two

were in Baldwin County, families seen on 9 Aug. (LPA, LRT, PFC, VDH); and 1 with 3 young at Marion 22 June through 3 July (RRR, JRB). A few White Pelicans summer just about every year on the coast; this year 1 on Mobile Causeway on 14 July (JLD) and at Pointe-aux-Pines) 14 on 9 June and 8 on 12 June (DCH). After an estimated 50 roosting near Sand Is. this spring, word on the Brown Pelican is definitely encouraging; on Dauphin Is. 5 to 20 throughout the period (G&JS, LRT); at Fort Morgan, 65 counted on 12 Aug. (HMS). A Brown Booby in Mississippi Sound on 18 June (DCH) is the 4th Alabama record (now recorded in April, June, July, & Aug.)

**Hérons, Ibises**—A partial albino Great Blue Heron on Mobile Causeway on 14 July had the same color bill and feet as a nearby normal adult bird, but except for a pinkish wash on its upper legs it was all white (JLD). Peak numbers of waders at Lake Purdy near B'ham this summer were, except for the first species, record highs for the Mt. Region Green Heron, 11 on 19 July (RRR); Little Blue Heron, 56 on 8 Aug. (RRR, KTK); Com Egret, 11 on 19 July (JRB); and Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 27 on 1 Aug (RRR). Cattle Egret concentrations were noted at Marion, 20 on 3 July (RRR & JRB); Bayou La Batre, 200 on 6 July (DCH); near Castleberry, about 400 young fledged from about 150 nests on 15 Aug. (CLK, AFW, T&AF). Although Yellow-crowned Night Herons were in good numbers around Birmingham, even in the middle of Mt. Brook (on 29 July--LMB), the birds were rather slow in reaching the coast from nearby nesting areas (MAG); first noted on Dauphin on 23 June (LRT). A Wood Stork at Lake Purdy, 19 to at least 31 Aug. (HHW, PAR and many) is the 3rd Mt. Region record, all from Purdy. In Portersville Bay, near Coden, on 2 July, 255 White Ibis were counted (DCH); 50 were seen in Baldwin County on 9 Aug. (LPA); 59 young and 4 adults were in the Castleberry rookery on 15 Aug. (CLK, AFW, T&AF); and one at Lake Purdy, 18 through 31 Aug. (GCC and many) is the 6th summer record there and also the latest.

**Ducks**—One Black Duck remained through the summer on a pond near Fairhope (LPA, et al.) First-noted Blue-winged Teal were early on 9 Aug. in Baldwin County (LPA, LRT). Wood Duck used 10 of the 80 boxes erected for them on Wheeler, Refuge (TZA); 40 birds were noted at Bussey's Pond just south of Phenix City (JM); 2 broods of fledged young were near Castleberry on 14 June (CLK et al.); 60 were counted at Chickasaw on 14 July (JLD); and 11 fully-feathered young were near Fairhope on 19 June (VDH). For at least the 7th successive year, Ring-necked Ducks, mostly males, have summered at East Lake, B'ham; this year 3 males were noted throughout the period and a 4th male on 10 May (RRR, GCC, et al.) The Oldsquaw reported from Dauphin on 27 March was actually present 25-30 Mar. (LRT). A male Com Scoter which summered in Mississippi Sound and apparently spent much of its time on Petit Bois Is (18 June, DCH), was photographed (TT)--no specimen as yet--and may well have been the late bird seen on Dauphin on 25 April. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is encouraging the hunting of sea ducks, often neglected in the past, in order to ease the pressure on other waterfowl. This should mean more summering records of sea ducks.

**Hawks**—Kites continue to do well, and 1 or 2 Mississippi are seen daily throughout the summer in Spring Hill, Mobile (MAG). At Bay Minette on 29 June, 4 Swallow-tailed and 7 Mississippi were seen (A&NG). Most other hawks are universally reported scarce with two possible bright spots, the Broad-winged and Sparrow, down but not decimated. All 4 species are mainly large insect and reptile eaters, and are probably receiving a much smaller dose of pesticide than other raptors. An immature Bald Eagle was on Dauphin on 31 July (DB) and 1 Aug (LRT). This indicates a returning, locally-hatched bird, and in view of Sept. 1969 and early Oct., 1968 records of immatures at the same place, young may still be raised successfully in Alabama!

**Rails**--Change the date of the Yellow Rail record in the spring report from 2 to 26 April. Young Clapper Rails were noted on Dauphin on 14 July (LRT). Purple Gallinules were recorded at 2 places in Baldwin County (VDH, LPA); on Mobile Causeway (JLD); and in Covington County (CLK et al); 3 downy young Com Gallinules were near Castleberry on 14 June (CLK et al). The Am Coot is another waterbird that summers commonly in the state and apparently attempts often to breed but with little success even though its close relatives the Gallinules do well enough. This summer pairs of Am Coots were recorded throughout the period at Heron Bay (LRT, DCH); Corte Pond, Baldwin Co. (VDH); Marion (RRR & JRB); and East Lake, B'ham (RRR & GCC).

**Shorebirds**-- A Semipalmated Plover on Dauphin on 10 June (LRT) is most likely summering, but who can tell for certain? Either some shorebirds are faster flyers than we think or, more likely, many of them do not breed every year. The Spotted Sandpiper, like many other shorebirds, is a non-breeding permanent resident on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, but rare from June to mid-July. This year, 1 on Dauphin on 12 July (LRT) is earlier than usual. Least Sandpipers were seen in return 1 day earlier in 2 Regions: 22 July, 4 at Bussey's Pond near Phenix City (JM); and 28 July, 2 on Dauphin (LRT). A Dunlin on 1 June on Dauphin (LRT) is latest ever for spring for state by 3 days. Stilt Sandpipers early for their Regions by several weeks were on Dauphin on 4 Aug. (LRT, LMcK); and at Lake Purdy, B'ham on 23 Aug (JRB); 2nd fall record for Mt. Region. (Correct this spring's 26 May Stilt Sandpiper record from 7 to 2 birds.) A Semipalmated Sandpiper on 8 June on Dauphin (LRT) has about the same status as the Semipalmated Plover. The last line inadvertently omitted from the spring report (ABL 18:4) should read: A Black-necked Stilt at Bayou La Batre on 1 May (REH) continues a long string of annual records.

**Gulls and Terns**--The rainy weather of late May and early June brought a rash of gull records: Herring Gull, 2 in B'ham on 31 May (GCC) and 1 there on 3 June (HHK); Ring-billed Gull, 5 at Lake Oliver, Chattahoochee R. on 4 June (LAW); Laughing Gull at Lake Oliver, 2 adults on 22 May, 12 with rains on 1 June, and a few present daily to a final peak of 17 on 12 June (LAW)! Forster's Tern, uncommon in spring inland, was seen at Lake Oliver on 24 May (LAW); another was at Lake Purdy on 15 Aug (JRB et al.) A Sooty Tern appeared at Gulf Shores on 28 June after a storm (JGS); we now have at least 7 coastal records and 5 more inland, all associated with storms. Two late Black Terns were on Lake Oliver on 4 June (LAW).

**Cuckoo, Owl, Whip-poor-will**--The Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported common on Dauphin on 7 June (LRT); more evidence of a late spring flight. The Barn Owl still lives within the city limits of Birmingham; one was seen recently killing a stray house cat (Sgt. Graham, B'ham Police). Anyone who has heard a Whip-poor-will suspects that birds must breathe differently than mammals, for birds such as the Pileated Woodpecker go a long time without losing breath. A Whip-poor-will that kept this writer awake in the Bankhead Forest on 23 May twice exceeded 300 calls without letup. Checking with Bent's Life Histories (USNM Bull 176, 1940) shows the record successive calls, noted by John Burroughs, is 1088!

**Gray Kingbird, Barn Swallow**--Gray Kingbirds had a successful year on the Gulf Coast; a maximum of 21 were counted on Dauphin on 11 Aug. (LRT); 5 more were counted at Fort Morgan on 12 Aug. (HMS); and 1 was even seen at Coden, on 25 Aug. (LRT). The first breeding record for Mississippi or Louisiana should come any year now. Barn Swallow nests were noted on the Mobile Causeway, under the Pineda area bridge, on 14 July (JLD), the only known new locality this year. Considerable buildup of existing colonies brought the Cedar Valley (Leeds) colony in its 5th year to 13 nests, 21 nestlings, and 83 nestlings banded (RRR, HHW, RJK, and many). The Sprott, Perry Co. colony had 18 nests, and 55 birds were counted there on 3 July (RRR & JRB). Barn Swallow totals for the 5 north

Alabama Breeding Survey Routes for which we have 5 years of data, 1966-1970 are 9, 33, 48, 83, 93--a ten-fold increase! The species has thus far been recorded on 20 of the 42 routes.

**Vireo, Warblers**--Data on early fall migration of the Red-eyed Vireo are difficult to obtain, thus one seen on Dauphin on 27 July (LRT) is especially interesting. Information from Dauphin outside the periods, 1 March-15 May, 25 Aug. - 10 Nov., and 20 Dec. - 3 Jan. is especially welcome. The Swainson's Warbler was recorded on at least 3 Breeding Surveys this year, Perry County (RRR & EGR), St. Clair County (HHK), and Bibb County (TAI & JMI). On 20 April 2 Black-throated Gray Warblers were on Dauphin (LRT) (See Spring Report). The Louisiana Waterthrush, noteworthy in the breeding season in the coastal plain, was seen and heard in Perry County on 6 June (RRR & EGR) and Choctaw County on 7 June (RRR & EGR). Little additional warbler data are at present available.

**Finches**--Blue Grosbeaks were seen south of US 90 in both coastal counties this summer, Mobile on 9 June (JLD & MAG), Baldwin on 22 July (LPA). Belated information tells us that this species and the Painted Bunting were seen in Marion the last week in March (D&RA). A Lark Sparrow at Fort Morgan on 12 Aug. (HMS) is the earliest state fall record away from the breeding range. Bachman's Sparrow (next endangered species?) has been rarely reported recently away from the pine flatwoods; 1 was singing in the rain near Vance, Tuscaloosa Co. on 30 May (TAI & JMI). A brown, poor-plumaged Whitethroat visited the Imhof bird bath but not the feeders on 1, 9, & 15 June. We now have at least 8 summers with June or July records of Whitethroats in the Mt. Region.

**Observers** (Local reporters in capitals)--Diane & Ray Arggle, Lois P. Archer THOMAS Z. ATKESON, JR., J. Russell Bailey, Laura M. Bailey, ANDREW K. BATES, Don Bland, Greg C. Carlisle, P. Fairly Chandler, J. L. Dom SJ, Don Drennan, Jr., Ted & Amy Fumans, MARY A. GAILLARD, Arthur & Nancy Garrett, R. E. (Tuck) Hayward, Dan C. Holliman, Verda D. Home, John M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof, CURTIS L. KINGSBERRY, Helen H. Kittinger, Richard J. Kittinger, Kenneth T. Knapp, Louise McKinstry, James Miller, ROBERT R. REID, JR., Elberta G. Reid, Pat A. Riley, Genevieve & Jim Spafford, Henry M. Stevenson, Julia Gaillard Suk, Lib R. Toenes, Tim Traylor, L. A. Wells, A Fred Wicke, Harriett H. Wright.

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NOTE--These Season columns cover as closely as possible four 3-month periods for each season. In order for material to be published promptly we must receive material as soon as possible but no later than the 10th of the month following each season, 10 March, 10 June, 10 Sept., and 10 Dec. Our present aim is to publish an issue of ALABAMA BIRDLIFE in the month following these deadlines (Jan., April, July, Oct.) with about 12 to 20 pages an issue and a Season column in each one. Bear in mind these dates when submitting material, especially records. If you have an observation that you think deserves more space than is given in the Season column, by all means submit a brief separate note. The success of this whole venture depends on your cooperation. Thank You.



#### NEST-RECORD CARDS NEEDED

At this time we would like to urge you--Regional Centers as well as individuals--to return to us any completed nest-record cards that have not been sent to the Laboratory of Ornithology. In our NEWSLETTER we will list the names of the major contributors for 1969.



**"Observations On The Courtship Behavior Of  
The Ruby-Throated Hummingbird  
(Archilochus colubris).**

-Dr. E. B. Sledge-

During the last week of August, 1968, I twice observed courtship and copulation of a pair of Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds. Observations were made on two successive days at approximately 1:00 p.m. through a window commanding a view of my courtyard (15' x 30') surrounded on three sides by the house and on the fourth by a 6' high board fence. Except for three flower beds, the largest 3' x 8' on the north side, the courtyard is paved with concrete. At the time the observations were made this flower bed was thickly planted red Salvia (*Salvia* sp.). Two female Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds were regular visitors to the salvia plants, during most of the first three weeks of August. During feeding activity these birds exhibited aggressive behavior in the form of chasing each other about through the foliage of the plants and around the environs of the courtyard. This activity was usually accompanied by twittering sounds and the loud hum produced by the wing action of the birds during hovering flight. The first appearance of a male was during the last week of August. When he arrived at the feeding site, the two females became highly agitated and one drove the other out of the courtyard. When this bird returned, immediately her antagonist again chased her away. During this time the male was feeding in a normal manner. When the dominant female returned to the feeding site, the male stopped feeding, the female began hovering in front of him. The pair then faced each other about one foot apart and to the accompaniment of much twittering, buzzing, and humming, flew rapidly up and down vertically. The female's tail was expanded during this activity but that of the male was not. The female darted at the male several times, each time he flew to the side and continued vertical hovering. The female appeared at all times to be the more aggressive of the two.

Contact was made in the air and was so rapid that I could not determine which bird made the advance. Upon contact, the female was dorsal to the male, the tails of both birds were fully expanded with the rectrices meshed. Thus attached, the birds flew about two feet above the ground for two rapid circuits of the courtyard. They came to rest on the concrete surface in the middle of the area. I timed the period during which the birds remained on the ground surface and it was slightly over one minute. The rectrices were still meshed and the male kept his wings fully extended and remained motionless during this entire time. The female held her wings partially extended and preened the feathers on the nape, crown, and forehead of the male. She also moved the tip of her beak back and forth along the entire length of the beak of the male. The pair then separated and flew to branches in a tree above the courtyard where each preened itself, then flew in opposite directions.

The following day, the same phenomenon was observed with no significant variations. It was not possible to determine whether or not the same pair of birds was involved in both cases.

Bent (U. S. Nat'l. Mus., 176:335-337) describes the flight patterns of the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird during courtship but does not give details concerning behavior during contact. On this subject, he states, page 337, "...observed a pair drop to the ground beside our driveway, where copulation took place." I found no other reference in the literature that describes contact during the courtship behavior of this species.

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September 1, 1970

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## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

(Birmingham News)

# New Bankhead Forest Report

Several weeks ago The Birmingham News printed my letter about the Bankhead National Forest. As a result of that letter, similar letters to our senators, and remarks made on my TV show, "Animal Tracks," I was asked to meet District Ranger William Bustin for a "show me" trip through the Bankhead. Four Forest Service officials spent six hours trying to convince me that all is well in the Bankhead. Because I have received scores of letters on this subject, I believe the readers of The Birmingham News will be interested in the results of that trip. The following are some of the things I learned.

Continued Inside Back Cover

## THE FALL AOS MEETING

### Livingston and Epps Alabama

OCTOBER 23-24-25  
Meeting Begins Friday 23  
with Boat trip and supper  
on the Beautiful Tombigbee.  
Board Boat at 3:00 P.M.  
at Dock in Gainesville, Ala.  
Go right over Tombigbee bridge  
to west bank of river.  
Boat trip and Dinner on Board \$2.50  
Reservations Must be Received  
Oct. 15 or before.  
Livingston Inn Motel headquarters  
Camping area at Epps. site of Fort  
Tombeche. Built by Bienville-1795

Boat Trip from Gainesville - 3 PM

# News of AOS

*Photosynthesis is that miracle by which sunlight is used to manufacture carbohydrates and oxygen. It is the essence of life. If pollution cuts off the sun or any major part of its rays, the renewing process of Photosynthesis comes to a halt. If we thus black out the sun, the very source of plant and animal life is lost.*

...Rienews

*Already we have hung a veil of dirty air over the cities and much of the countryside that cuts off twenty percent of the sunlight.*

—Dr. Alfred Hulstrunk—

*Apart from death and the more dramatic forms of illness, pollution can produce extreme fatigue, irritability, headache, and Tension...*

—NYC Air Pollution Task Force—

## Alabama Entertains IBBA

A. O. S. was well represented at the Inland Bird Banding Association (IBBA) Meeting August 28–31 at Birmingham-Southern College. Members drove some distance to take part in the meeting. Out-of-state registrants were Curtis Kingsbery and Lloyd Clayton, from Pensacola, and Mike Bierly from Tennessee and Tuck Hayward from Mobile.

Hosts for the IBBA meeting were the Birmingham Audubon Society and Birmingham-Southern College. The college was ideally suited for the meeting. Due to the thoughtful planning of Dr. Dan Holliman and the staff of the college, bird banders and their guests were well fed and comfortably housed for the entire convention in air-conditioned rooms for \$26, including registration and banquet fees. Classrooms were convenient and well equipped for paper sessions. In a nearby exhibit room were displayed bird skins, slides, and banding equipment from Dr. Dan Holliman's biology department.

Thanks to Elberta Reid, and her committee, IBBA members and guests enjoyed an informal reception Friday night and an excellent banquet Saturday evening at The Club atop Red Mountain overlooking the city.

Bird banders viewed the Birmingham Area banding operations directed by Harriette Wright and Tom Imhof. At Lake Purdy some of the Midwesterners happily added new birds to their life such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, the brown-headed nuthatch, the pine warbler, and the wood ibis.

Bob Reid most ably coordinated programs, field trips, paper sessions and other facets of the 3-day meeting. Heading some of the host committees were AOS members Helen Kittinger, Margarette Persons, Russ Bailey, and Raymond Bates.

Bird-banders and birders had a good time and learned a lot. It was nice having IBBA in Alabama.

—Gussie Arnett—

During fiscal year 1970 the timber cut in your Bankhead Forest amounted to 11.2 million board feet. All of this was cut by and for large, privately owned lumber companies and these companies made a substantial profit from your forest. At present 90 per cent of your forest is classified as commercial forest land with only 10 per cent classified for other uses including roads, water, recreation, and special uses. By nature, the Bankhead is a mixed hardwood forest which has already been converted to more than 55 per cent pine, and the declared intention of the Forest Service is to increase the pine. Many species of hardwoods are considered "trash trees" and are deliberately being destroyed and eliminated over large areas.

The aim of the Forest Service is to convert all of the forest, excepting a few small recreation and special management areas, to even-age management. Under this plan each tract would be clear-cut and reforested mostly with pines of even age. Clear-cut tracts are vast eye sores of tangled weeds and poisoned trees. It will take from six to ten years for seedling pines to partially heal the scars on the land.

Dangerous chemicals are used to poison the unwanted trees. The Forest Service is now involved in lawsuits concerning cotton crops allegedly destroyed when these poisons were sprayed from helicopters. The poisons are now injected into the trees. The district ranger admitted to me that no one knows what effects this may have on soil, water, and wildlife as these trees rot.

On the day of my visit the Sipsey River was filled with muddy silt and the Forest Service officials admitted that an unknown portion of this silt comes from the clear-cut tracts. None of these officials would deny that last winter's flooding along the Sipsey was probably aggravated by the clear-cut tracts. As we walked across one of these scarred tracts

we could see ample evidence of soil erosion. The effects on water tables in the area are less obvious.

Three-fourths of all forest land in America is privately owned, yet our national forests are now supplying two-thirds of our nation's sawtimber. The loggers cry there is a timber shortage in America while they are exporting some four billion board feet every year. This is almost 400 times as much timber as the Bankhead produces and roughly enough to build housing for as many people as live in the Birmingham metropolitan area.

As our valuable timber is being exported out of the country, our national forests are being turned into tree farms for the private profit of loggers rather than being preserved as places of recreation, beauty, solitude and conservation for all people.

Our nation's need for recreation areas and for unspoiled areas of natural beauty is growing rapidly while such areas are dwindling in size and number. Such areas are most urgently needed here in the East. Consider the economic bonanza for Alabama if the Bankhead became a national park rather than a tree farm. There would still be plenty of tree farms on privately owned land.

Most urgently needed is federal legislation to accomplish the following: 1. Remove national forests from the Department of Agriculture and put them under the Department of Interior. 2. Limit exports of timber to that which is not needed in the United States. 3. Encourage the growing of forests to lumber size on privately owned land. 4. Emphasize the multiple-use principle in our national forests, with a de-emphasis on lumber and pulpwood production.

**BOB TRUETT,**

Director, Jimmy Morgan Zoo,  
2630 Cahaba Road.

THE FALL

THE WINTER

THE SPRING

AOS MEETINGS

Livingston and Epps Alabama

Boat Trip from Gainesville -- 3 PM

OCTOBER 23-24-25

Meeting Begins Friday 23  
with Boat trip and supper  
on the Beautiful Tombigbee.  
Board Boat at 3:00 P.M.  
at Dock in Gainesville, Ala.  
Go right over Tombigbee bridge  
to west bank of river.

Boat trip and Dinner on Board \$2.50

Reservations Must be Received Oct. 15 or before.

Livingston Inn Motel headquarters  
Camping area at Epps, site of Fort  
Tombeche...Built by Bienville--1705

THE WINTER MEETING

At Gulf Shores  
January 22-23-24-25 1971  
Holiday Inn Headquarters

THE SPRING MEETING

Wilson Ornithological Society  
Dauphin Island  
April 22,23,24,25  
Headquarters at Story Apartments  
(For Reservations)  
Mrs. Carolyn W. Hager  
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