

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

In a recent note on nesting reciprocity in Eastern Phoebes and Barn Swallows [The Wilson Bulletin, 89, 632-5 (1977)], Harmon Weeks cites three references pertinent to the subject. One of these is an article by Jerome Jackson and Ray Weeks which appeared in Alabama Birdlife, 24, 7-9 (1976). With this issue, Alabama Birdlife completes 25 years of continuous publication. Apart from the semi-annual meetings, it has been the chief means of communication of A.O.S. with its members. It has also served as the major repository of ornithological records from Alabama and northwest Florida. Those concerned with the publication and distribution of Alabama Birdlife are committed to continuing and augmenting these functions. It is gratifying to see our journal cited elsewhere in the ornithological literature, because citations such as the one above are evidence of success in our efforts to disseminate the contributions to ornithology that originate in our area. Major credit for this success goes, of course, to the many contributors who provide articles for publication, to our editors - of whom the present is James Peavy, and to those in charge of circulation - notably Naomi Banks - who handle distribution to A.O.S. members and other subscribers. Recognition of this will put what follows in proper perspective, because this is to be a report of the A.O.S. Librarian.

From the beginning, the Ralph Brown Draughon Library of Auburn University has managed the publication exchange program for our society. We exchange publications on a volume-per-volume basis with some 25 other organizations. Some of the publications that are received in exchange are The Wilson Bulletin, Egretta and The Ring - major European journals - and a number of important state publications. The returns from exchange are used to enhance the Auburn library's holdings in ornithology. Our association with Auburn has several advantages for us:

1. Space to house our substantial collection of back issues - space is at a premium in libraries everywhere.
2. Proper management of our exchange program - Auburn handles mailing and necessary correspondence, provides periodic inventories and updates the exchange list from time to time.
3. An efficient and cordial staff, notably Mrs. Farley Fish, Gifts and Exchanges Librarian, who are willing to accommodate all requests regarding dispersals from our collection of back issues.

The exchange program represents 10-15% of our circulation and is especially significant in a scholarly sense, because it contributes to other ornithological collections. After a lapse for various reasons and of short duration, we are caught up, and the exchange program is running smoothly again. While the Auburn library is not now actively seeking to increase the exchange list, additions to the list can be arranged by writing me.

Another program, this one undertaken just recently, seeks to place (as gifts) collections of back issues in various libraries in Alabama and northwest Florida which did not previously have them. The university libraries at Tuscaloosa, Auburn and Jacksonville have complete collections of Alabama Birdlife to the best of my knowledge. Almost complete sets have recently been given to the libraries of University of South Alabama and University of Alabama in Birmingham and to the Birmingham Public Library, and other donations are being arranged. All donations are made with the understanding that obtaining future issues is the responsibility

of the recipient and not A.O.S. I will be happy to assist in placing collections of back issues in other deserving libraries in our area under the same ground rules but must ask your help with some of the initial legwork. Please ask a reference librarian in the library under consideration if they will accept such a set (about 60 issues) and then give them my address. Some libraries (e.g., University of Alabama in Huntsville) are hesitant to accept because of space problems.

Back issues of Alabama Birdlife may also be purchased, and this has been an additional, though minor, source of revenue to A.O.S. For instance, TVA has recently ordered a complete set of back issues, and the order is now being processed. If you would like to purchase back issues for your collection, please send your want lists to me. The price to A.O.S. members is presently \$1.00 per issue.

Recently, Mr. Millard Prather, an A.O.S. member from Birmingham, offered the society a substantial collection of back issues of ornithological journals (including Auk, The Wilson Bulletin and American Birds) with the request that it be placed in a library in Birmingham. The collection is now in the periodical stacks of the Mervyn Sterne Library of University of Alabama in Birmingham. In return, the U.A.B. library extends full checkout privileges to A.O.S. members. Those who wish to check out books from the library need only show evidence of A.O.S. membership to the Science Reference Librarian, Ms. Virginia Jackson, to get a card good for a year. Periodicals understandably may not be removed from the library, but the library has an open stack policy for periodicals, and no special card is necessary to use them. We thank Mr. Prather for his gift. It is a significant benefit to U.A.B. and to A.O.S. members, especially those from Birmingham. If I can be of similar service to other A.O.S. members, please let me know.

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AOS BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting of Alabama Ornithological Society was held April 29, 1977, following a seafood buffet at the Dauphin Island Community Center. President Russell Bailey called the meeting to order and gave recognition to the Society's twenty-fifth anniversary and to the founder, the late Blanche Dean. The following slate of officers was unanimously elected: President, J. Russell Bailey; Vice President and President-Elect, Dr. Jim Thompson; and Treasurer, Martha Rogers.

Robert R. Reid read a resolution opposing uneconomic water projects. The membership voted to adopt the resolution and to send copies to appropriate persons. Mr. Reid also urged members to send articles and notes of interest to Editor James V. Peavy to be published in Alabama Birdlife.

Members who would like to support Paul Johnson's research on the wading birds nesting on Cat Island were encouraged to send checks to the Marine Research Lab.

The following door prizes were awarded: Penguins Past and Present, Here and There, Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America and an original painting by Doris Kingsbery.

Dr. Henry M. Stevenson, Professor Emeritus of Zoology at Florida State University, presented an interesting and informative program concerning his studies of the Boat-tailed Grackle. He discussed and illustrated with slides the different subspecies and their subtle differences along with observations concerning habitat.

Helen Thigpen
Secretary Pro Tem