

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955

CLARENCE E. MORGAN, JR.  
President  
Kosciusko, Mississippi  
39090

LIONEL JOHNSON  
Vice-President  
466 Cooper Road  
Jackson, Mississippi  
39212

WILLIAM H. TURCOTTE  
Editor  
Route 2, Box 43  
Jackson, Mississippi  
39209

MRS. WILLIAM G. WILLS, JR.  
Secretary  
1529 Poplar Boulevard  
Jackson, Mississippi  
39202  
B. E. GANDY  
Treasurer  
111 North Jefferson Street  
Jackson, Mississippi 39202

April 24, 1967

MOS NEWSLETTER - Vol. 12, No. 1

Compiled by: W. H. TURCOTTE

LAST SPRING MEETING

The annual Mississippi Ornithological Society spring meeting and field trip was held in Jackson, Mississippi on April 22 - 23, 1966. The business session was held in the Sheraton Motor Inn Restaurant. There were twenty members and guests in attendance. Mr. Clarence E. Morgan, Jr., Vice-President, presided in the absence of Mrs. C. Hal Cleveland, President, who was unable to attend. Mr. B. E. Gandy gave the treasurer's report and also reported that the membership approved by mail vote the change in the MOS constitution and by-laws which allows a majority of voting members present at the annual meeting to elect officers. Mr. Gandy also discussed organization of local chapters under the new by-laws. The nominating committee reported a slate of officers, and these were elected by majority vote as above. The membership voted to authorize a bird slides committee appointed by the new MOS President, Mr. Clarence E. Morgan, Jr. to expend up to \$35.00 for preparing a series of "Yard and Garden" bird slides and a program guide to be given to Mrs. Owen Palmer, Jr., President, Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. for use by affiliated garden clubs. A color slide program showing development of the Pearl River Waterfowl Refuge and its utilization by waterfowl was given by W. H. Turcotte.

The luncheon before the business session and the field trip Saturday morning were enjoyable for those attending. Some new acquaintances were shared between members, wives and guests.

\*\*\*\*\*

1966 BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

In June of 1966, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife conducted this survey under the direction of Chandler S. Robbins, who contacted the writer and asked for our assistance in launching the survey for the State of Mississippi. Survey forms and instructions were furnished on short notice to all states east of the Mississippi and eastern Canadian provinces and coverage was requested in

each degree block of longitude and latitude (approximately 60 X 60 miles square) for each state or province. This called for at least one, preferably two routes in fifteen degree blocks. Starting points were randomly pre-selected in each degree block. Observers followed directional road routes, beginning one - half hour before sunrise, making 50 stops one-half mile apart, counted all birds during a three minute watching and listening period at each stop and recorded all data on forms. Data from each form was then punched on IBM cards for tabulation by each species recorded.

The principal purpose of this Breeding Bird Survey is to provide a basis for detecting changes (especially the common birds) in breeding bird populations in subsequent years. The need for statistical information on bird population changes becomes more and more urgent each year because of drastic changes that man is imposing upon his environment.

To accomplish the sampling for Mississippi, MOS members and others were asked to participate and excellent cooperation was obtained. Coverage was obtained of all but two of fifteen degree blocks in Mississippi. Participants in the breeding bird survey were:

Robert E. Noble	Ben B. and Lula Coffey
Robert H. Mills	Mrs. William G. Wills, Jr. and
John H. Phares	Miss Christine Berry
B. E. Gandy	C. E. Morgan, Jr. and
D. B. Jordan	Walter V. Davis
W. L. Whittemore, Memphis, Tenn.	Dave and Beverly Aldridge
R. W. McGowan, Collierville, Tenn.	W. H. Turcotte

The top ten species recorded in the 1966 Breeding Bird Survey were:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NUMBER IDENTIFIED</u>
1. Common Grackle	49,740
2. Starling	48,676
3. House Sparrow	48,238
4. Red-Winged Blackbird	46,612
5. Robin	20,661
6. Common Crow	16,657
7. Bobwhite	14,623
8. Eastern Meadowlark	13,493
9. Cardinal	12,749
10. Mourning Dove	12,431

Mississippi's list for the 13 routes covered recorded the 20 species as follows in decreasing order of abundance: Common Grackle, Mockingbird, Bobwhite, Redwinged Blackbird, Meadowlark, Cardinal, Blue Jay, Mourning Dove, House Sparrow, Common Crow, Starling, Kingbird, Purple Martin, Chimney Swift, Orchard Oriole, Indigo Bunting, Brown Thrasher, Yellowthroat, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Yellowbreasted Chat.

\*\*\*\*\*

### BLACK-POLLED WARBLERS

My wife called attention to a strange bird song in our backyard early Saturday morning, May 7, 1966. Upon investigation, I found three males feeding in several wateroak trees. At least two others were heard in the trees in adjacent yards but were not observed. The birds were first heard about 5:30 A.M. and were observed at various times during the morning. One bird was observed for several minutes in good light and at a distance of not more than 40 - 50 feet with 7 X 35 binoculars. The black cap was distinct and the song could be identified with the bird under observation. Females may have been present but were not recognized.

An undetermined number of Tennessee Warblers were feeding and singing in the yard at the same time the Black-polls were seen. -- J. H. Phares

\*\*\*\*\*

### SURF SCOTERS RECORDED ON ROSS BARNETT RESERVOIR

On January 2, 1967 Mrs. William G. Wills, Jr. and Miss Christine Berry first observed and recorded five Surf Scoters near the dam on Ross Barnett Reservoir in Madison County, northeast of Jackson, Mississippi. The birds were carefully studied with a B & L telescope. The next day, January 3, 1967, probably one of the same Surf Scoters was observed and photographed by W. H. Turcotte at the same location through a B & L telescope. Two of the scoters were again observed at the same location on January 10 by W. H. Turcotte and John H. Phares. Field marks were studied carefully by all observers. This may be the only inland record for this species. Sight records were made previously in waters of the Mississippi Sound. -- W. H. Turcotte

\*\*\*\*\*

### WINTERING BALTIMORE ORIOLES IN JACKSON

On December 10, 1966 a male Baltimore Oriole was observed in North Jackson by Miss Christine Berry at Mr. McGruder's residence on Howard Street. Again on January 14, Miss Christine Berry reported that a female Baltimore Oriole had appeared on that date at her feeder on North State Street for the sixth time since January 4th. -- W. H. Turcotte

\*\*\*\*\*

### HORNED GREBES

About fifteen Horned grebes were observed on January 15, 1967 near the Ross Barnett Reservoir dam by Mrs. William G. Wills, Jr. and Miss Christine Berry. About 300 lesser scaup were reported by the, observed near the dam, on the same day. -- W. H. Turcotte

\*\*\*\*\*

## M. G. VAIDEN BIRD SKIN COLLECTION AT OLE MISS

The 3500 bird skin collection of Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Vaiden of Rosedale, Mississippi, consisting of some 265 species collected over their lifetime in Bolivar County and over 2000 specimens identified as to sub-species, has been placed permanently at the University of Mississippi. The presentation was made in honor of the late Walter Sillers of Rosedale, who served as Speaker of the House of Representatives, by the Vaidens to the Biology Department of Ole Miss. The University is proud of this collection and we are pleased that it is permanently placed in a Mississippi institution.

\*\*\*\*\*

## QUINTON BRELAND

Quinton Breland, Area Manager of the Leaf River Wildlife Management Area, in Perry County, and veteran of more than twenty years service with the Mississippi Game and Fish Commission, died suddenly on October 2nd, 1966 of a heart attack. Quinton will be remembered in legend and deed for his dedication to conservation and the restoration of deer and turkeys. Probably more than any other individual person in the State, he pioneered in the live-trapping and transplanting of deer and wild turkeys. Many areas of the State of Mississippi have huntable deer and turkey populations derived from breeding stock trapped and transplanted by him from the Leaf River Refuge. Thousands of hunters have shared in hunting of the game he helped restore and manage.

-- W. H. Turcotte

\*\*\*\*\*

## FANNYE A. COOK PORTRAIT PRESENTED MUSEUM

The family of the late Miss Fannye A. Cook presented her portrait by Jackson artist Karl Wolfe to the State Wildlife Museum in a brief but impressive ceremony at the Museum on March 29, 1967. Mr. Billy Joe Cross, Director, accepted the portrait for the Game and Fish Commission. Members of Miss Cook's family, several former Directors and Commissioners of the Commission and close friends were present for the occasion.

\*\*\*\*\*

## PURPLE MARTINS' ARRIVAL -- 1967

First arrival date for purple martins at our house this year was February 23. Two males were seen for two consecutive days and martins were not seen again until early March. We now have (April 19th) only four pair building nests, considerably less than the ten pair that have occupied our martin house and gourds for the past several years.

-- W. H. Turcotte