

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955

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Compiled by: W. H. TURCOTTE

PLANS FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Tentative arrangements are as follows:

The annual MOS meeting combined with a Spring field trip to Gulf Islands Refuge will be held May 10, 11 and 12, 1968. Arrangements with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife are being completed by Mr. Burton Webster, Vice-President and Program Chairman. Plans are to leave by boat ( an amphibious landing craft) from the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Dock, Pascagoula, Mississippi at 7:00 AM, Saturday morning, May 11th. We plan to visit Petit Bois Island and offshore spoil areas to see nesting terns and gulls, etc., then go to Horn Island to spend the night at the Refuge Cabin headquarters on the Island, leaving there to return on the afternoon of May 12th.

For the overnight stay on Horn Island there will be cooking facilities, ( in shifts, and beds for eight or ten. For more than eight--sleeping bags, air mattresses or bedding to put on the floor will be required. (Best plan to bring a sleeping bag). A supply of plates, cups, glasses and silverware, lights and two cooler chests are available. Bring your own food (groceries) and drinks adequate for two days supply for each individual or party. Bring plenty of drinks. The cabin on Horn Island has running water (tastes bad but OK for coffee or tea). You will also need insect repellent , cigarettes or tobacco, matches or lighter , hat or suntan lotion, towels, toilet articles and comfortable, protective clothing.

Best to bring also a chest for ice and drinks and a boxed supply of food for your party.

In the event of bad weather making the boat trip impossible , we will organize a field trip to marsh, shorebird and other areas in the vicinity of Pascagoula and Biloxi and alternate plans for the business meeting will be announced.

Those planning to make the trip please notify Burton S. Webster, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, by card or letter. Manager, Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Route 1, Brooksville, Mississippi 39739.

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## 1968 BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

Plans are already being completed for the 1968 June Breeding Bird Survey. Some of you have participated in this survey of fifteen randomly selected 25-mile long road routes. The objective is to measure trends in the breeding populations of common birds. In the 1967 Survey the twenty birds most commonly seen and heard along the selected routes were as follows, in descending order: (1966 order shown in parenthesis)

- |                             |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Bob-white (3)            | 11. Starling (11)                    |
| 2. Mockingbird (2)          | 12. Chimney Swift (14)               |
| 3. Common Grackle (1)       | 13. Purple Martin (13)               |
| 4. Cardinal (6)             | 14. Indigo Bunting (16)              |
| 5. Eastern Meadowlark (5)   | 15. Eastern Kingbird (12)            |
| 6. Red-winged Blackbird (4) | 16. Orchard Oriole (15)              |
| 7. House Sparrow (9)        | 17. Yellow-breasted Chat (20)        |
| 8. Blue Jay (7)             | 18. Wood Thrush (Yellowthroat, 1966) |
| 9. Common Crow (10)         | 19. White-eyed Vireo (Towhee, 1966)  |
| 10. Mourning Dove (8)       | 20. Yellowthroat (18)                |

WHT

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## ROSEATE SPOONBILLS AT NOXUBEE REFUGE

Mr. Burton S. Webster, Manager of Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, reported by letter, on August 4, 1967, four immature Roseate spoonbills were on Bluff Lake, Noxubee County, Mississippi. The birds were first spotted by eight year old Cheryl Goude-lock who noticed the pink birds mingling with a flock of wood ibis.

WHT:

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## WHISTLING SWANS

Nine Whistling Swans were counted by Biologist Ken Babcock, Grenada, Mississippi, on Enid Reservoir during the January 8, 1968 Midwinter Waterfowl inventory (aerial survey). On January 22, 1968 nine whistling swans visited an impoundment on Sardis Waterfowl Refuge (may be the same birds seen on Enid) and remained for several days on the area mingling with Canada geese and other waterfowl. The 1800 acre Sardis Refuge is on the south side of Sardis Reservoir north of Oxford, Miss.

WHT

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## PURPLE MARTINS ARRIVAL, 1968

Mrs. R. V. Stevens, Box 36, Star, Mississippi called Erskine Gandy and reported the first 1968 purple martin arrivals with two showing up on January 27th, 1968. Two martins arrived at my house west of Jackson on March 7th and we now have eight.

WHT

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### WHITE-FRONTED GEESE

Two immature White-fronted geese were recorded by Lon Strong on March 13th, 1968, at the goose decoy pen on the Pearl River Waterfowl Refuge, Madison County, Mississippi. The unusual visitors were still there on March 19th when seen by the editor on this date. WHT

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### LONG-EARED OWLS IN COPIAH COUNTY

On January 18th, 1968, Robert Mills and John Phares recorded eight or nine Long-eared owls on the Copiah County (Henneberry) Area. These birds were flushed from a thicket of planted pine trees surrounded by open fields and sedgegrass. The owls were roosting the thickest places. Pellets found under the roosting places contained fur and bones of shrews and mice.

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### WOODCOCK COURTSHIP PERFORMANCE

W. Marvin Davis recorded 58 species of birds on a December 20, 1967 Christmas bird count on Grenada Reservoir. He also reports (to his surprise) observing three woodcocks and hearing call notes and courtship flights at dark in late December and January.

Your editor has, on more than one occasion, heard woodcock slight songs in late December and early January while duck hunting. This year several singing males were located near Jackson in late January and early February. One male was singing actively on Pearl River Waterfowl Refuge on January 20th. This singing ground was used by the same (or other) bird(s) as late as February 25th. Another male was recorded in Pearl River Swamp and observed on the ground giving call notes and making four courtship flights at dark on March 3rd, 1968. The location was in Rankin County just east of the swinging bridge across Pearl River from Byram, Mississippi.

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### SPRING MIGRATION BEGINS

Early spring migrants are appearing in numbers in the Jackson area (Parula, Black and white warbler, Yellowthroat, Gnatcatcher, Hooded warbler, White-eyed vireo, etc.). The late snowfall of March 22nd brought the rare sight of a Hooded warbler male in snow-covered shrubbery in my yard. The first Chimney swift observed March 24th west of Jackson. After one of the coldest months of February on record (averaging 10° below normal) returning migrants and warmer weather will be welcomed by most birders.

March 25----WHT

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