

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955

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April 24, 1969

MOS NEWSLETTER - Vol. 14, No. 1

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PLANS FOR ANNUAL MOS MEETING AND FIELD TRIP

Arrangements for the annual business meeting and field trip are as follows:--

The MOS business meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Restaurant on old Highway 80 and Interstate 20 in Vicksburg, Mississippi starting at 7:30 P.M., Friday, May 30th, 1969. The motel and restaurant is on the east side of Vicksburg. We plan to have food service and the business meeting and program will follow. Mr. Earl Cunningham, Management Biologist, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, will be our featured speaker. He will give a color slide illustrated talk on colonial nesting of wood ducks at the Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge (you'll be surprised!). Burt Webster has some slides made on our last field trip to Horn Island. If you have any bring them for showing.

The field trip will be to the Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge in Washington County near Glen Allan, Mississippi. We plan to leave Vicksburg from the Holiday Inn Motel at 7:00 A.M. and go east on Interstate 20 to the Beechwood-Rolling Fork exit. Here we will turn north on Highway 61 By-Pass, then follow Highway 61 to Rolling Fork, Mississippi, where we turn left (west) on Highway 14 which intersects Highway 1 west of Rolling Fork. We then follow north on Highway 1 and turn right off Highway 1 just north and east of Glen Allan, Mississippi at the Yazoo Refuge entrance road and proceed to the Refuge Headquarters.

Plans at the Refuge are to see the wood duck nest box program and to visit a heron rookery, so be prepared and wear field clothes. The Yazoo Refuge contains about 10,000 acres around Swan Lake, an old Oxbow Lake. Box lunches will be served at cost.

In order to complete final arrangements for food service and the field trip, please return the enclosed as soon as possible indicating your plans to attend and number of guests in your party.

We hope these arrangements will assure a good attendance especially by the members from Natchez. For those who plan to return southward from Yazoo Refuge, on the trip down Highway 1 and following the Eagle Lake Road on top of the Main levee below Fitler, you should see Mississippi Kites, painted buntings, dickcissels and in the willows and cottonwoods along the Main levee and around Eagle Lake you will find warbling vireos.

(O V E R)

EVENING GROSBEAK INVASION

The spectacular invasion of Evening Grosbeaks has attracted much attention over Mississippi and grapevine reports indicate Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and Georgia had a large share of these birds.

First reports of them in Jackson came on December 15, 1968 when twenty (20) appeared at the Dr. T. H. Blake feeders at 1736 St. Ann Street. Mr. E. H. Magruder, 1713 Howard Street reported them on December 28. Mr. Magruder and others have fed them all winter in Jackson. They are still here in numbers (April 23). Other reports listed Evening Grosbeaks at Vicksburg (Hal C. Moore, 9 at his home on January 5, 1969). Marvin Davis and W. H. Turcotte counted at least 50 in a two block area in Northeast Jackson on January 20th. Mrs. Robert H. Allen, Amory, Mississippi fed a flock of 30 to 40. R. C. Myers of Starkville recorded them. Mrs. John Beal, Okalona, Mississippi fed 25 - 30. Mrs. Anne Reagan, Edwards, Mississippi had 25 - 30 at feeders (reported February 9, 1969 by Mr. Morris Melvin, Jackson.) Other reports gave over 200 in Natchez, Mississippi, over 100 in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Mr. Clarence Morgan, Jr. reported them in Kosciusko, Mississippi on February 18; also he had two red-breasted Nuthatches at his feeder regularly this winter. Evening Grosbeaks were recorded on the Coast by Mr. William Demoran at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory feeders. Others reported the birds at Brandon, Mississippi and Canton, Mississippi.

W. H. Turcotte and Dr. Gordon Meade of New York City (visiting for a medical meeting) heard Evening Grosbeaks 6 miles north of Bovina, Mississippi on April 20 and Turcotte observed flocks of more than twelve feeding and singing in the same area on April 23 and 26. Dr. Meade said don't be surprised if you find them nesting here. We did receive a report from Mrs. W. G. Sours, Jr., 755 Euclid, Jackson, that during the week of April 20 - 26 adults were seen in her yard feeding two young and Mr. and Mrs. Sours found a flying young Evening Grosbeak in their greenhouse.

If you have records of them for your area, Erskine Gandy would like to have them.

WAXWINGS - LARGE FLOCK

John H. Phares, 4539 Meadowridge Drive, Jackson, contributes the following note--

"I wish to report seeing at least 200 Cedar Waxwings in hackberry and arborvitae type trees in North Jackson the morning of February 16, 1969. A Mockingbird attempted to run the birds out of evergreen but was not too successful. They were so thick in and around the evergreen they were like a big swarm of bees."

MARTIN ARRIVALS

Mrs. R. V. Stevens, Box 36, Star, Mississippi, who owns 106 Martin compartments, reported the first martin arrival this year for the Jackson area, a female on January 27th, 1969.

BALD EAGLES ON ROSS BARNETT RESERVOIR

From four to six immature Bald Eagles were observed frequently from late November 1968 to late March 1969 on Ross Barnett Reservoir near Jackson. A color photograph of two of these birds taken on December 9, 1968 by Claude Sutherland appeared in the Clarion-Ledger on December 11th, 1968.
