

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955

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May 30, 1972

MOS NEWSLETTER - Vol. 17, No. 2

Compiled by: W. H. Turcotte

ANNUAL MEETING

The business meeting and field trip was held at Ocean Springs on May 5 - 6, 1972. The meeting was held at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, 7:30 P.M., May 5th, Dr. Jerome A. Jackson, presiding. Attendance was about 35 members and guests. Plans and arrangements for the Saturday morning field trips and boat assignments were worked out. B. E. Gandy, Treasurer, gave the treasurer's annual report. The nominating committee submitted the above slate of officers. No nominations for officers were made from the floor. Members voted and elected the nominees and further to name Dr. Gordon Gunter, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, P.O. Box AG, Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564, as Corresponding Secretary. No duties for our Corresponding Secretary were spelled out so Dr. Gunter can assume all the liberty he needs to record, comment, and report on MOS activities. New business conducted:

1. Authorized payment by treasurer of \$75.00 to Federal Land Bank for annual rental-maintenance of Brooksville heronry, Starkville Audubon Chapter to pay equal amount.
2. Directed officers to arrange a fall field trip to Yazoo National Refuge and consider plans for next annual meeting in Tishomingo County.

A short movie on birds and bird songs concluded the evening meeting.

The J. W. Tucker Award was not considered so this remains for another year with last year's recipient, Dr. W. Marvin Davis.

The boat trips got underway as scheduled about 8:00 A.M. Saturday morning. The Hermes party made it to Horn Island, the Gulf Researcher to Ship Island and the smaller Gannet past Deer Island but had to turn back in rough water and the high "southeaster" wind. All the boats had to put in on the leeward side. We understand the Researcher party saw gannets and a parasitic jaeger, which should have made the day for those aboard. The Gannet party, after a short stopover on Deer Island, visited savannas in the Sandhill Crane area, inspected a crane nest, saw three cranes and a dove nest built on the ground at the base of a small pine tree. The bog plants including grass pink orchid, milkweeds, pitcher plants and sundews were in bloom. No report on the Hermes trip is available other than on some border-line seasickness caused by the high wind and waves.

Special thanks are due Dr. Gunter and associates for use of the Laboratory facilities, for the boat trips and all other courtesies and arrangements.

ANI ON GULF COAST, HARRISON COUNTY

Mr. John G. McCloskey, 538 St. Louis St., Pass Christian, Mississippi reported at least four Ani wintered around his home located just one block north of the beach drive. The birds were not identified as groove-billed or smooth-billed by Mr. McCloskey who reported them as follows:

"I cannot positively say whether the birds I observed were smooth-billed or grove-billed. One thing certain, they are anis. The large beak, long tail short wings cannot be mistaken, even at a distance.

They have been observed or heard almost daily all winter. They appear to be roosting in a cane brake near my house.

The largest number observed at any one time has been four.

On March 4, 1972 four anis were observed by John M. Parker of Pass Christian and myself.

This morning, possibly the same four birds were seen by Mrs. Katherine Koerner and myself at my place.

Sincerely,

March 26, 1972.

S/ John G. McCloskey"

Ed. Note: A visit to Mr. McCloskey's residence on May 7, 1972 and he reported the birds had not appeared in the last week or two. Habitat on adjacent properties (bamboo and shrub thickets) appeared to be in most respects comparable to habitats where I have seen ani in southern Florida or south Texas. There are only two other records, both groove-billed ani for Mississippi: Thomas Burleigh, Gulfport, specimen (F.) November 4, 1941 and James Batson, Lumberton, Mississippi, specimen (F.), October 5, 1940.

ON EVENING GROSBEAKS

Ben B. Coffey, Jr. contributes the following:

"Miss Annie Laws, Hickory Flat, Mississippi, 12 (evening grosbeaks) seen present February 29 through March 10, 1972. One seen March 15. Up to 40 were previously recorded earlier in February."

Mr. E. H. MacGruder telephoned the editor and reported he counted more than 20 evening grosbeaks at Dr. Blake's feeder, corner of St. Ann and Belmont Street, on April 12, 1972, Northeast Jackson, Mississippi. WHT

OSPREY NEST - JACKSON COUNTY

Following up on a report of an "eagle nest", State Game Warden James K. Mallette and Joe Rusic, Federal Game Management Agent, located an active osprey nest between Bear Bayou and Fishing Bayou approximately two miles from Dumas Fishing Camp in the Pascagoula River Swamp, Jackson County. The female was sitting on the nest on May 21, 1972. The nest was in a large tree screened from open view. WHT

WOODCOCK NEST RECORD

"Another woodcock record: Two forestry students found this nest on February 25th. They accidentally flushed the female and then saw the 4 eggs. One man went back to the spot a week later and the female was absent. Apparently she deserted the nest. Anyway he told me about the nest and Perkins and I went to it Monday. Again no female, cold eggs. We took pictures, colored slides of everything and I took the eggs for class purposes. I shall send you copies of slides when I get them.

Nest location: about 10 miles south of Starkville in the Cypress Creek Unit of Mississippi State Experimental forest; about 1 mile west of Highway 25.

Oktibbeha County, Mississippi

Date: February 25, 1972 (first found) The female had apparently just started to incubate and deserted when almost stepped on.

Habitat: Overstory - big loblolly pine - saw timber
Understory - thicket, pine and Hdw. db.h == 2-3"

Nest of pine straw on a small pushed down strip through thicket - like forest. 2 chains from dirt-forest road."

March 15, 1972 S/ George A. Hurst, Associate Professor
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Mississippi State University
Drawer LW
State College, Ms. 39762

SPRING NOTES

Received from the following:

Ben B. Coffey, Jr. - "No golden plover found March 19. George Hervey drove many miles at Lakeview. Also, no tree swallows." S/Ben B. Coffey March 22, 1972.

W. H. and Annie C. Turcotte - March 19, 1972. 12 Golden plovers in large field east of Holly Bluff, Mississippi. Horned larks paired, male recorded singing. Barn swallow, one north of Satartia on Yazoo River, Yazoo County. Yellow throated warbler singing at Blue Lake, Delta National Forest, Sharkey County. First arrival - March 23, white-eyed vireo in back yard, Hinds County. March 28, 40-50 Lesser scaup, 8 redheads, 2 ruddy ducks at Cook's Lake west of Jackson. March 25, dead Barn owl on Highway 16 3 miles north of Holly Bluff, Mississippi. Horned larks, paired and two males actively battling in air over field east of Holly Bluff. Two females were very tame. Mourning dove nest, 2 eggs, female on nest in willow over barrow pit on Highway 16 between Holly Bluff and Rolling Fork, Sharkey County; also 30+ blue winged teal, 1 green winged teal, Lower Auxiliary Channel, Yazoo County. West of Satartia: 10 common snipe, feeding and several males chasing each other and making rasping calls that sounded unlike the usual "scape" call when they flush. 1 golden plover alighted in field at sundown.

W. H. Turcotte - First sightings, Amite County, March 29: Yellow throated vireo, Blue-gray gnatcatcher, E. Kingbird. Hinds County, April 1, Chimney swifts, April 3, Yellow throats.

Jerome A. Jackson and class - "Between 6 and 9 A.M., March 23, saw 42 species - including Yellow warblers, parula warblers, blue-gray gnatcatchers, as well as resident and wintering birds. Also, keeping a close watch on a Kingfisher nest just off campus."

Mrs. J. H. Pepper, May 1, Yazoo County - "Goldfinches in Summer clothes and so pretty when they sat on the blooming thistles eating bugs or seed. On road south of Highway 49 West between Highway 3 and the levee (west of Yazoo City) the willows were full of bobolinks, and some were coming down to shallow, muddy water to bathe. There were hundreds of them. Mrs. Zumalt had a Rose-breasted grosbeak in her yard several times."

W. H. Turcotte and Jackson Audubon group - April 15, near Carpenter, Mississippi, Claiborne County, Yellow warbler and blue gray gnatcatchers feeding young in nest. Little blue heron rookery nests with eggs and cattle egrets present. Approximately 150 white ibis observed in flight (two times) second time four ibis descended to heron rookery.

