

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955

LOUIS P. CASHMAN, JR.
President
Vicksburg Evening Post
Vicksburg, Mississippi
39180

WILLIAM H. TURCOTTE
Secretary-Editor
Rt. 2, Box 43
Jackson, Mississippi
39209

BURTON S. WEBSTER
Vice-President
Rt. 1, Box 111
Brooksville, Mississippi
39739

B. E. GANDY
Treasurer
111 N. Jefferson St.
Jackson, Mississippi
39202

October 27, 1972

MOS NEWSLETTER - Vol. 17, No. 4

Compiled by: W. H. Turcotte

FALL FIELD TRIP AND MEETING

The dates for the MOS fall field trip to Yazoo Refuge are November 17 and Saturday, November 18. The meeting will be held Friday at 7:00 P. M. at the Cajun Catfish Restaurant, Highway 82 East, Greenville. A buffet style seafood meal will cost \$3.29 including tip and tax. James Dale, Manager of the Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge has agreed to present a program about the refuge and possibly show slides or a movie.

Saturday morning we plan to drive to the Yazoo Refuge, probably leaving about 6:30. After a few hours at the refuge we plan to go to Leroy Percy Park for more birding activity followed by a box lunch there. The box lunches will be prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Jones (park manager) and will cost \$1.00 or \$1.25. Please notify Ed Alexander of your plans to attend giving number in your party and number of box lunches desired at Leroy Percy Park. Use card, letter or the attached form.

After lunch, the program is rather informal with members being free to remain at Leroy Percy Park or return to the Yazoo Refuge. Possibly an afternoon field trip to the Mississippi River or adjoining area can be arranged for the afternoon for those wanting to make it. We hear Vermilion flycatchers may be present in an area near Lake Jackson).

Those attending should make their own motel reservations:

	<u>Minimum rates (tax included)</u>	
	<u>Single</u>	<u>Double</u>
Alamatt Motel, Hwy. 82	\$7.35	\$9.45
Coachmans Inn, Hwy. 82	10.50	13.65
Azar Motel, Hwy. 82	7.35	10.50
Colonial Motel, Hwy. 82	7.35	10.50
Downtowner, Washington Avenue	10.50	13.65
Gilhara Motel, Hwy. 82	8.40	10.50
Greenville Motel, Hwy. 1 (off 82)	7.00	9.45
Holiday Inn, Hwy. 82	9.50	12.60
Lowry's Motel, Hwy. 82	7.35	9.45

Ed Alexander has been very helpful in making plans and arrangements so please advise him promptly on your plans to attend.

Louis P. Cashman, Jr.
President, MOS

GREAT HORNED OWL - IBIS ON NOXUBEE REFUGE

"I've done a bit of bird watching lately from my front steps and at 6:05 A. M. the G. H. owls are really in their prime. This would be an ideal place to get tape recordings of them for it is very quiet at that hour. After squirrel season opens, that will be another story. There are 2 white ibis on the lake and a few glossy ibis in the cypress sloughs. Wood ibis populations are much lower than last year."

Burton S. Webster
9/10/72

GROUND DOVES

"I saw something unusual yesterday, Sept. 21st, that I want to report: a pair of ground doves. I scared them up from a turnrow with my car and they flew out in the cotton field. I walked out in the field and flushed them a couple more times and got a good look at them through my binoculars. The russet coloring on the wings was clearly visible and I feel certain of the identification.

I have seen these birds in Florida and the Caribbean but never heard of them being up this way."

Tom Gary, Wildwood Plantation
Rt. 3, Greenwood, Miss. 38930

EDITOR'S NOTE

Mr. J. R. Knight, Louisville, Miss., also reported that he accidentally shot a ground dove on September 30, 1972 about 5 miles east of Louisville, Winston County. Another was reported shot in Issaquena County on the opening weekend of the dove season (Sept. 2 - 3) by Mr. Louis P. Cashman.

WHITE IBIS

"Yesterday (July 18) at the Yazoo Refuge I saw 4 white ibis: one adult (all field marks), two immatures, and the fourth bird was white with dark shadings on body, dark neck, no red on face. Could this be 2nd year plumage?"

The birds were perched high in a cypress tree (near 3 Black-crowned Night Herons). It was 7:00 P. M. and the light was good. I watched them at least 15 minutes and they were still there when I had to leave.

I mentioned this to Mr. Dale, the Refuge Manager, and he said he had seen 2 of the white ibis a few days earlier feeding."

Ed Alexander, Jr.
Box 659, Greenville, Miss. 38701

MOS SHIP ISLAND FIELD TRIP

Dr. Marvin Davis sends the following list by MOS party observers on the spring field trip. The reported sighting of gannets in the last MOS Newsletter has not been substantiated. The Editor

Observer: W. M. Davis and others; Locality: Ship Isl. and vic. (SI); Gulfport harbor (G); Biloxi, Bellefontaine and vic. (B); Lyman Fish hatchery (L). Date: May 5, 6, 1972.

Common Loon, 3 SI; Horned Grebe, 3 G; Double-crested Cormorant, 3 B; Magnificent Frigatebird, 1 SI; Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Little Blue Heron, L; Cattle Egret, 9+ SI; Louisiana Heron, Least Bittern, Wood Duck, 3 pr., L; Lesser Scaup, 6 B; Red-breasted Merganser, 3+ SI; Bobwhite, Sandhill Crane, 3, King Rail, Clapper Rail, Sora, 3 SI; Semipalmated Plover, Wilson's Plover, 5+ SI; Killdeer, American Golden Plover, 1 G; Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Spotted Sandpiper, SI; Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, 1 SI; Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, G; Semipalmated Sandpiper, (SI); Sanderling, Parasitic Jaeger, (1 ad.) 3-4 mi. off Biloxi; Ring-billed Gull, Laughing Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Forster's Tern, Common Tern, Least Tern, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1 SI; Common Nighthawk, SI; Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, (B) nest; Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, 1 SI; Great Crested Flycatcher, Rough-winged Swallow, L; Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, SI; Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Parula Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, House Sparrow, Bobolink, 7+ SI; Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Boat-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Summer Tanager, (HI); Cardinal, Painted Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, 1+ SI; Seaside Sparrow, 1+ SI; Field Sparrow.

91 species identified by me, or others (), on Sat. or Sun. A. M. Probably were some others I don't know about, esp. land birds. s/ Marvin Davis

MISSISSIPPI COAST BIRD NOTES

On 7 and 8 July 1972, a flock of twenty-two brown pelicans was seen along Bellefontaine Beach on Mississippi Sound a little east of Ocean Springs.

On the same day a white pelican was seen flopping on the beach and unable to fly. The next day the bird was found dead and was brought in a somewhat ripened condition to the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory where it was examined for parasites by Dr. Robin Overstreet. He said there was no obvious external wound and he did not believe the bird had been shot, but its condition was such that this was hard to determine. The digestive tract contained the roundworm, Contracaecum, and echinostome trematodes. The kidneys were heavily infested with Renicola sp., a trematode, which might have been the cause of death.

On August 2 six brown pelicans were also seen flying along the Bellefontaine Beach.

It is a matter of strange chance that after being absent for so long the brown pelicans would show up here at the same time as a white pelican. So far as we know the white pelicans have continued to show up here in their usual scattered numbers during the winter and without any relationship to the presence or absence of the browns.

The State of Louisiana has imported brown pelicans from Florida and now has an established colony. Nevertheless, we do not know the origin of the birds recently sighted in Mississippi.

4 August 1972

Gordon Gunter
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
Ocean Springs, Mississippi
Corresponding Secretary
Mississippi Ornithological Society

GEORGIA CHECK LIST

A pocket-sized (approx. 4X6 in.) edition of Checklist of Georgia Birds by Denton and Hopkins is available for seventy-five cents each by writing to The Treasurer, GOS, c/o H. G. Hastings Co., P. O. Box 4088, Atlanta, Georgia. The listings contain brief notes on occurrence and distribution of birds in Georgia, many of which are applicable to birds in Mississippi.

BROWN PELICANS REPORTED AGAIN

Mr. Charles H. Lyles, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, who is a member of this staff, informed me that he saw a flock of twenty-six brown pelicans near the fort on the east end of Dauphin Island on 7 August 1972.

He said that a few days later a lady reported twenty-six pelicans in the Round Island area of Mississippi. It might have been the same flock.

This is merely continuing information that the brown pelicans seem to be coming back either from Florida or Louisiana.

Gordon Gunter
Corresponding Secretary, MOS

ANI BACK ON COAST

Mr. John G. McCloskey, 538 St. Louis St., Pass Christian, Miss., reports that three Ani have returned to the same location around his home where they wintered and remained until late April, 1972. The area is located in the block between Beach Drive and St. Louis Street.

FIRST WHITE-THROATS

"First arrival White-throated Sparrow - Oct. 13, 1972 in bird bath."

by M. V. Duvic
1735 Wilhurst, Jackson

* * * * *

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

H. Champ Clark, Game and Fish Commission biologist, Liberty, Miss. collected a specimen of the Scissor-tailed flycatcher for the Wildlife Museum on October 24 in Amite County. Mr. Clark telephoned this report on the same day the bird was collected. WHT

Date _____

Mr. G. Edward Alexander, Jr.
1749 W. Azalea
Greenville, Ms. 38701

There will be _____ persons attending Fall MOS Meeting at Greenville and Field trip to Yazoo Refuge. Please order _____ box lunches for my party at Leroy Percy Park.

Signed _____

Address _____