

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955

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

BURTON S. WEBSTER  
Vice-President  
108 Windsor Rd.  
Starkville, Mississippi  
39759

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

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

March 26, 1973

MOS NEWSLETTER - Vol. 18, No. 1

Compiled by: W. H. Turcotte

PLANS FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The MOS annual meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn, Tupelo, Mississippi, on Friday, May 11, 1973 at 7:30 PM. There will be a roast beef dinner at \$3.75 including tax and tip. We will plan a field trip to Tishomingo State Park, to Pickwick Lake and to J. P. Coleman State Park on Saturday. Program plans are in the making but we are requesting that you bring slides for showing at the meeting.

Tishomingo State Park has some unique scenic features and we may expect to see or hear ovenbirds, phoebes nesting there, scarlet tanagers and some late migrants if conditions are right. Barn and cliff swallows should be nesting under Scrugg's Bridge near Pickwick Lake. We plan to visit J. P. Coleman State Park on Pickwick Lake. For those of you who plan to stay over Saturday night, you can hear whippoorwills calling on most of the high ridges around Pickwick Lake. Motel accommodations are available at J. P. Coleman State Park and family-style cabins are available at Tishomingo State Park. Reservation requests should be addressed to: Mr. W. D. Pruitt, Manager, J. P. Coleman State Park, Iuka, Ms. 38852 or Mr. Leon Ferguson, Manager, Tishomingo State Park, Dennis, Ms. 38838. Make your reservations at the parks early since the accommodations may be limited unless made early.

Please complete and mail the enclosed notice of your plans to attend the annual meeting and field trip so arrangements can be made in advance for food service on the meeting and field trip. Do this as soon as possible.

DAUPHIN ISLAND BIRDING TRIP

The Mobile Bird Club, Mobile, Alabama, has invited the members of the MOS to come to Dauphin Island on Saturday and Sunday, April 7 and 8 for a birding trip. MOS members would make their own hotel reservations and be responsible for their own meals. Headquarters will be at Holiday House. Registration is at 9 AM--NO fees. A supper for the group will be held there at 6 PM Saturday, April 7, cost \$3.00 per person. A brief program, including slides, will be presented.

Sunday - members will be on their own but will meet at Holiday House at 12 Noon for a count , then adjourn.

Notify Jim Spafford by card or letter if you plan to attend the supper. His address is: 7 North Catherine, Mobile, Alabama 36604, Phone 205-479-8768.

#### PINE SISKINS VISIT WILDLIFE MUSEUM

Sixteen pine siskins were seen on February 19 and 20, 1973 near the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, 111 North Jefferson St., Jackson, Mississippi. The pine siskins were apparently feeding on arborvitae buds. Observers were R. T. Shropshire and B. E. Gandy. In addition, W. H. Turcotte verified the identification of the pine siskins.

#### RED CROSSBILLS AT NOXUBEE REFUGE

On Saturday, February 24, 1973 two red crossbills were observed near Noxubee Refuge Headquarters by Jim and Gloria Maender and reported to the editor by telephone by Dr. Jerome A. Jackson. There was a male and female and the male was singing in pines on the refuge. An earlier record for this species, a male specimen found killed by a car on a road in Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge on October 29, 1972 was recorded by Dr. Jackson in the last issue of The Mississippi Kite, Vol. III, No. 1.

#### EVENING GROSBREAK INCURSION

Evening grosbeaks have appeared again this 1972-73 season, apparently in record numbers. Here are some additional reports received or observed by the editor: Forest, Mississippi, February 12, 1973 at least 24 at residence of Mrs. Charles Molpus; Washington, Miss. (Adams County) a lone male reported by Miss Margaret Alsworth on February 26; Booneville, Miss., daily from January 7 to February 8, 16 - 28 at feeder, reported by James M. Lamb, Zoology Department, Northeast Mississippi Junior College; Vicksburg, Miss. (Warren County) reported at feeder by Mr. Louis P. Cashman, Jr., February 20th; Jackson, Miss., Cherry St. off Terry Rd. 12 reported on February 12th, appearing first in late December; Hollandale, Miss. (Washington County), January 29, 1973 a male and female observed and reported by Mrs. Jane Ganier; Jackson, Miss., residence of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Blake, evening grosbeaks first appeared at feeder on January 7 with as many as 40 - 50 appearing through March 26th, also pine siskins (as many as 6 counted) have appeared periodically at the Blake's feeder; Crystal Springs, Miss., 10 evening grosbeaks at feeder on January 11, 1973 reported by Mrs. Martha Moody Brignac; Kosciusko, Miss. reported first two weeks in January at feeder of Mr. and Mrs. Walter V. Davis; Eagle Lake, Warren County, week of February 25th, reported on feeders at fishing camp by Mrs. Jane Williams; West Point, Miss., residence of Mrs. Gilbert Lee, Brame Ave., 4 males and 2 females on March 2, 1973 reported by Sam Hollingsworth, State Game Warden, Clay County; West Jackson, March 6 - 8 on three mornings, a flock of about 20 evening grosbeaks feeding on ground under large sycamore tree in a pasture near Hinds General Hospital observed by W. H. Turcotte and B. E. Gandy.

#### CORRECTION ON FIRST WESTERN GREBE SIGHT RECORD

In Vol. 17, No. 5, MOS Newsletter, a sight record of the Western Grebe was reported as being " the first known occurrence record for the species in Mississippi." Dr. W. Marvin Davis, Box 515, University, Mississippi previously recorded and reported the Western Grebe as the first record for Mississippi on January 29, 1965 at Grenada Lake (Audubon Field Notes, 19(3) p. 385, 1965).

FALL NOTES: SARDIS LAKE

"Of interest for late fall or early winter at Sardis Lake were: 7 Franklin's gulls on November 27, 2 White-fronted geese on November 23 and 1 Whistling swan on December 17, 1972. Very surprising ---- in late December and early January were the approximately 600 canvasbacks at the Sardis Waterfowl Refuge with the extremely high water level for this time of year." W. Marvin Davis

VERMILLION FLYCATCHER

Mrs. Harold Zumalt, Rt. 6, Box 207, Yazoo City, Miss. 39194 reports by letter of January 5, 1973: "I watched one (vermilion flycatcher) for quite a while on January 4, 1973 and part of the time he was close enough to watch without binoculars. He was flycatching from a snag in the water ---- with some myrtle warblers nearby". The location was on Barnett Reservoir along the "Pipeline Road" off Highway 43 where it crosses the Reservoir, in Madison County.

GROUND DOVE

A specimen of Ground Dove was donated recently to the Wildlife Museum. It was brought in by Warden Supervisor R. I. Lee. The bird was taken by a hunter on the last day of the dove season, January 14, 1973 at Kokomo, Miss., Marion County.

OVER-WINTERING ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW

An over-wintering rough-winged swallow was observed on January 7, 1973 on the "Pipeline Road" off Highway 43 where it crosses the Reservoir. The bird was observed closely as it perched on button-bushes over water and as it fed among dead timber flooded by the reservoir. W. H. Turcotte

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1972 Christmas Bird Count  
Grenada, Mississippi

Dec. 20, 1972; mostly moderate to heavy fog with rain from 1:00-2:00; total party-hours, 19 (13 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 70 (8 on foot, 62 by car).

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|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Common Loon, 1         | Winter Wren, 6             |
| Horned Grebe, 21       | Bewick's Wren, 6           |
| Pied-billed Grebe, 4   | Carolina Wren, 45          |
| Great Blue Heron, 4    | Mockingbird, 49            |
| Wood Duck, 2           | Brown Thrasher, 12         |
| Lesser Scaup, 53       | Robin, 29                  |
| Hooded Merganser, 10   | Hermit Thrush, 9           |
| Red-tailed Hawk, 9     | Eastern Bluebird, 9        |
| Red-shouldered Hawk, 1 | Golden-crowned Kinglet, 48 |
| Marsh Hawk, 10         | Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 38   |
| Sparrow Hawk, 2        | Water Pipit, 2             |
| Bob-white, 23          | Cedar Waxwing, 28          |
| Am. Coot, 1            | Loggerhead Shrike, 8       |
| Killdeer, 11           | Starling, 1,034            |
| Common Snipe, 36       | Solitary Vireo, 1 (BBC)    |
| Herring Gull, 1        | Myrtle Warbler, 5          |
| Ring-billed Gull, 13   | Pine Warbler, 1            |

1972 Christmas Bird Count , Grenada, Mississippi continued --

<u>Black-headed Gull</u> , 2 (1 ad., 1 imm.; all 3 observers)	House Sparrow, 11
Mourning Dove, 89	Eastern Meadowlark, 119
Barred Owl, 1	Red-winged Blackbird, 780
Belted Kingfisher, 2	Rusty Blackbird, 18
Yellow-shafted Flicker, 43	Brewer's Blackbird, 8
Pileated Woodpecker, 4	Common Grackle, 1,299
Red-bellied Woodpecker, 13	Brown-headed Cowbird, 106
Red-headed Woodpecker, 3	Cardinal, 121
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3	Purple Finch, 8
Hairy Woodpecker, 7	Am. Goldfinch, 24
Downy Woodpecker, 18	Rufous-sided Towhee, 39
Horned Lark, 1	Savannah Sparrow, 46
Blue Jay, 76	Vesper Sparrow, 8
Common Crow, 35	Slate-colored Junco, 112
Carolina Chickadee, 49	Field Sparrow, 64
Tufted Titmouse, 14	White-crowned Sparrow, 10
Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3	White-throated Sparrow, 320
Brown-headed Nuthatch, 3	Fox Sparrow, 31
Brown Creeper, 3	Swamp Sparrow, 105
	Song Sparrow, 88

TOTAL: 73 species, about 5,218 individuals.

(Seen in the count period: Mallard, Black Duck, Pintail, Am. Widgeon, Ring-necked Duck, Red-breasted Merganser.)

Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Marvin Davis (compiler).

Editor's Note: Dr. Davis added the following note further confirming identification of the Black-headed gull: "We had one spectacular species observation in the Black-headed gull, but unfortunately, no photo or specimen for evidence. I found the birds and reached my conclusion of their identification, and then was able to catch Ben Coffey to have him try at the same spot (south end of dam). He and Lula did find the gulls present later in the day, and they concurred in my provisional identification. I wasn't able to get back again soon, but 9 or 10 days later I failed to relocate the birds." S/W. Marvin Davis

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