

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955

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Compiled by: W. H. Turcotte
Editor, MOS

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual business meeting was held at 7:30 P.M. at the Ramada Inn in Tupelo, Mississippi on May 11, 1973. About 21 members were present. Minutes of the 1972 meeting were read by the Secretary and approved. Following is the Treasurer's report, presented by Mrs. William G. Wills, Jr. in the absence of the treasurer:--

Treasurer's Annual Report, B. E. Gandy, Treasurer

Checking balance May 5, 1972.....	\$227.46	
Deposited:		
Dues.....	\$154.00	
Check Lists.....	<u>23.53</u>	
Total deposited.....	\$177.53	\$177.53
Disbursements:		
Farmers Home Administration..... (Rent on Rookery 5/29/72)	75.00	
Stamps.....	62.00	
Secretarial and multilith service.....	65.00	

Bank service fees.....	\$ 22.72	
Negatives and half-tone.. (Miss. Kite).....	20.21	
Paper for printing.....	49.42	
Total disbursements.....	\$294.35	\$294.35
Balance in checking.. (5-11-73).....	110.64	110.64
Balance in savings... (5-5-72).....	870.18	
Balance in savings... (5-11-73).....	\$1,012.33	\$1,012.33
(In Magnolia State Savings & Loan Assoc.)		
Includes \$100.00 Life Membership dues		
plus interest \$42.15.		
Total assets May 11, 1973.....		\$1,122.97

There followed a discussion of the Cliftonville heronry and it was moved and passed that the MOS pay \$75.00 for annual 1973 rental which the Oktibbeha Audubon Society will match with an equal amount.

The J. W. Tucker Award Committee recommended and the members present unanimously approved the presentation of this award to B. E. Gandy for outstanding accomplishment in the planning and achievement of a long-awaited goal: the new Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Building (nearly completed and scheduled for formal opening on August 14, 1973).

W. H. Turcotte outlined plans for the Tishomingo County field trip.

The Nominating Committee made its report and the officers shown above were elected to serve for 1973.

A discussion followed as to time and place for a fall meeting. It was agreed that a fall meeting be held sometime in November in Jackson at the Museum of Natural Science, followed by a field trip to Ross Barnett Reservoir.

The Saturday morning field trip was first to Tishomingo State Park. Here the group enjoyed the scenery, bird-watching and a lunch at the picnic area. Highlight of the day was a male Wilson's warbler in full song, spotted first by Rev. John A. Izral and seen by most of the group. This was a "first" sighting for most members present, including the editor. Bay-breasted, Canada and chestnut-sided were other transient warblers observed. The group motored to Scrugg's bridge across Yellow Creek at Pickwick Lake but only barn swallows were nesting. The cliff swallows were not yet nesting, only old nests present under the bridge. Highlight of the visit to J. P. Coleman State Park was a male scarlet tanager that displayed himself for viewing at leisure by the whole party. Weather conditions were ideal for birdwatching throughout the day.

MORE ON EVENING GROSBEAKS

Additional reports received on wintering evening grosbeaks further confirm that the 1972 - 73 winter and spring season was probably the all-time record year to date. Here are some additional reports received by the editor: December 26, 1972,

8 evening grosbeaks at feeder, last seen on February 21, 1973, reported by Mrs. George R. Smith, 1102 West Beach, Pass Christian, Mississippi. From January 21 - February 17, three evening grosbeaks fed regularly with Cardinals and a flock of over thirty was seen on February 7--Florence and Carl Bauer, Monticello, Mississippi; January 21 first sighting, then 5 - 25 until April 5, 1973 at least 40 feeding on sunflower seed on patio reported by Mrs. Thelma J. Litton, Hazlehurst, Mississippi; Mr. Bob Waller photographed evening grosbeaks and pine siskins at his feeder at Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He reported they were last seen on April 23, 1973; Ten evening grosbeaks were reported by Mr. Buck Pridgen at Redwood Inn, Terry Road in Jackson on April 26, also seen by W. H. Turcotte and others at same time and location; April 7, 1973, five evening grosbeaks feeding on ground on gas line right-of-way on Ross Barnett Reservoir, Madison County; Clarence E. Morgan, Jr. reports from Kosciusko, Mississippi, Attala County, his latest observation of evening grosbeaks was May 3rd.

SPRING NOTES

Approximately 100 bobolinks were seen by several observers including Steve Peterson, Billy Joe Cross, Mrs. Willa B. Thomas, Bill King and W. H. Turcotte, May 4 - 6, 1973. They were in oat fields and pasture on both sides of the Bolton-Brownsville road, Hinds County.

Three fulvous tree ducks were observed by George Chandler (reporter), Richard Dent and Gene Stokes on May 22, 1973 on Steele Bayou, Issaquena County. They were seen in flight near wheat fields flooded by backwater.

On March 31st and April 7th, two black vulture nests containing two eggs each were found on the Pearl River Waterfowl Refuge, Madison County by W. H. Turcotte.

On March 29th a pair of Louisiana waterthrushes was completing a nest and Yellow-throated vireos, black-and-white warblers, blue-gray gnatcatchers and hooded warblers were seen and heard north of Bovina, Mississippi, Warren County by Henry Bobbs, Jr. and W. H. Turcotte.

On March 31 John H. Phares reported one black-throated green warbler observed in his back yard in North Jackson, Mississippi, Hinds County.

Clarence E. Morgan, Jr. reported a late departure date on May 6, 1973 for white-throated sparrows; also, observations of Baltimore and orchard orioles feeding on honeysuckle blossoms.

A screech owl was nesting with two eggs and two wood duck nests containing 14 and 10 eggs were observed in wood duck nest boxes on Pearl River Waterfowl Refuge, Madison County, on March 31st by a party of Mississippi College ornithology students. About 200 blue-winged teal were observed on the refuge by the party.

LATE CATTLE EGRET

A late date for the cattle egret with cattle in a pasture was observed and reported at Monticello, Mississippi by Florence and Carl Bauer, Monticello, Miss., December 2nd, 1972.

GROUND DOVE

Mrs. George R. Smith, 1102 West Beach, Pass Christian, Mississippi: on February 9, 1973 feeding on bird seed on patio in the snow.

WILSON'S WARBLER, SPRING RECORD

Ed Alexander, Jr., 1749 W. Azalea Drive, Greenville, Mississippi send the following record of a Wilson's warbler:

Date: May 14, 1972; Location: deciduous thickets at Warfield Point area, Washington County, Mississippi (at the River); 5:00-6:00 PM, 85° clear, 10 mph winds. I wrote in my notebook: "in thickets--walked up on bird and studied for a few minutes - so close I did not need binoculars - bird was very tame - silent". It was a male in Spring plumage.

Following are observations made in S. Lawrence Co., Ms. for the period. Since they were first noted on the 17 April, Cattle Egrets have been more evident than last year. This was especially true after cool rainy nights when flocks of up to 20 were seen. The following were incidental observations made during routine field work:

April

- 2 E. Kingbird, Silver Creek, Ms.
- 4 (After night in 40's) 3 Indigo Buntings, 1 female, Jayess, Ms.
- 6 Male Orchard Oriole, Monticello, Ms.
- 10 Green Heron, Jayess, Ms.
- 14 Last 'Old Sam Peabody' (White-throated sparrow), Dusk-dark, Monticello.
- 15 Baltimore Oriole, Monticello.
- 15 Chimney Swift, Jayess.
- 17 3 Cattle Egrets S. of Silver Creek, Ms. (First seen)
- 18 After night of high southeast wind and heavy rain
Flock of about 20 Cattle Egrets plus several singles and pairs.
- 20 1 male B. Grosbeak, Monticello, Ms.
- 3 May Cattle Egrets in suddenly increased numbers after cool, rainy night.

Carl L. Bauer, PO Box 396, Monticello, Mississippi 39654
