

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955

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FALL MEETING

The fall meeting of the MOS was held November 30, 1973 at 7:30 PM at the new Mississippi Museum of Natural Science auditorium in Jackson, Mississippi. There were about 55 members and guests in attendance. Mr. Louis P. Cashman, Jr. presided and following a short discussion of needs for a proposed wildlife land acquisition program the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Game and Fish Commission has exclusive charge and control of the propagation, distribution and protection of wild and game birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, game and fur-bearing animals; and

WHEREAS, all forms of wild animals depend upon suitable, diverse habitat for their survival and propagation; and

WHEREAS, there have been over 500,000 acres of land cleared within the past 10 years and, in addition, we are losing wildlife habitat to highways, urban development and dredge and fill operations. It appears that these conditions will continue as more intensive use is made of land; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Game and Fish Commission is a self-supporting state agency which derives its principal revenue from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, half fine money from game and fish violations and federal excise taxes on guns, ammunition and fishing tackle; and

WHEREAS, population pressure is projected to increase from 2,216,912 people in 1970 to 2,482,800 in 1980 and 3,139,800 in the year 2000. Increasing demands for outdoor recreation and the diminishing area on which recreation can be provided makes it imperative that land acquisition by the Game and Fish Commission be stepped up so that public hunting and fishing and non-consumptive wildlife use and enjoyment of wildlife may be assured in the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Ornithological Society strongly supports the purpose, passage and intent of wildlife land acquisition legislation and legislation to broaden the Commission's authority to manage and protect non-game and endangered species and does hereby urge favorable consideration in the committees and final passage by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi.

Plans for the field trip were discussed and then Mr. B. E. Gandy gave the program, outlining the history and services of the Museum and the part it has played in the development of interest in Mississippi birdlife. The Museum had its beginning in the early 1930's when a few specimens of wildlife were assembled for fair exhibits. The late Fannye A. Cook initiated a Game and Fish Commission sponsored WPA Plant and Animal Survey Project and most of the collections of vertebrates were collected from throughout the State. This project extended until 1940 during which time most of the study collections and exhibit materials were assembled.

Miss Cook served as the Museum Director until her retirement in 1960. The Museum houses the most complete collection of Mississippi vertebrates and wildlife exhibits in existence. Miss Cook was instrumental in organizing the MOS in 1955 and was its first President.

Following the program the group enjoyed a tour of the Museum exhibits and refreshments were served in the laboratory section.

The Saturday morning field trip had about 35 participants, most of whom are listed (to help you remember the names) as follows: Walter V. and Rebecca Davis, John Izral, E. W. and Laverne Permenter, Frances Carter, Doris Knausz, Frances Wills, Ed and Ginger Alexander, Christine Berry, Ruth Downey, Evelyn Tackett, Louis and Frances Cashman, Steve Peterson, Burton and Marjorie Webster, W. D. and Elizabeth Burke, Audrey Nicholas, Nona Herbert, Martha Ward, Elsie Croft, Raye and Martha Weeks, Jerry Jackson, Aubrey Taylor, John Phares, Bill and Annie Cook Turcotte. The party departed from Main Harbor Marina on Ross Barnett Reservoir and worked in separate groups, meeting for lunch at Penn's Restuarant on Highway 43 near Canton. Following lunch the party toured the Pearl River waterfowl refuge and the game and fisheries research laboratory. Eighty-one (81) species of birds were listed during the Saturday field trip as tabulated by all parties reporting:

Common loon	Canvasback
Lesser Scaup	Bufflehead
Pied-billed grebe	Ruddy duck
Double-crested cormorant	Unidentified merganser (Phares' party)
Great blue heron	Turkey vulture
Mallard	Black vulture
Shoveler	<u>Sharp-shinned hawk</u>
Wood duck	Red-tailed hawk
Ring-necked duck	Red-shouldered hawk

Bald eagle
 Sparrow hawk
 Bobwhite
 American coot
 Killdeer
 American woodcock
 Common snipe
Greater yellowlegs (1)
 Herring gull
 Ring-billed gull
 Rock dove
 Mourning dove
Yellow-billed cuckoo (late record)
 Barred owl
 Belted kingfisher
 Yellow-shafted flicker
 Pileated woodpecker
 Red-bellied woodpecker
 Red-headed woodpecker
 Yellow-bellied sapsucker
 Hairy woodpecker
 Downey woodpecker
 Eastern phoebe
 Blue jay
 Common crow
 Fish crow
 Carolina chickadee
 Tufted titmouse
 Brown-headed nuthatch
 Winter wren
 Carolina wren
 Long-billed marsh wren

Mockingbird
 Brown thrasher
 Robin
 Hermit thrush
Unidentified-Gray-checked or Swainson's thrush (Phares' party close observation)
 Eastern bluebird
 Golden-crowned kinglet
 Ruby-crowned kinglet
 Water pipit
 Cedar waxwing
 Loggerhead shrike
 Starling
 Myrtle warbler
 Pine warbler
 Yellowthroat
 House sparrow
 Eastern meadowlark
 Redwinged blackbird
 Common grackle
 Cardinal
 Purple finch
 American goldfinch
 Rufous-sided towhee
 Savannah sparrow
 Junco
 Chipping sparrow
 Field sparrow
 White-crowned sparrow
 White-throated sparrow
 Swamp sparrow
 Song sparrow

CINNAMON TEAL REPORTED

"Jim Williams, the Ass't. Manager of the Yazoo Refuge, called the other day to ask me to come down to help identify some shore-birds. Ginger and I went down on 8/21 late in the afternoon. Jim had his 60x scope and we identified 12-15 Pectoral Sandpipers and 18-20 Western Sandpipers (on a follow-up trip 8/23 saw 4-6 Least Sandpipers).....but as a bonus we got a pair of Cinnamon Teal. I called you about this, but you were on your vacation. I have a friend who is a Duck Hunter, and he says he has killed Cinnamon Teal in this area before. Was surprised to hear this since it is not even on our MOS list." September 4, 1973 by G. E. Alexander, 1749 W. Azaela Dr., Greenville, Mississippi

FALL NOTES:

"31 August '73. Mississippi Kite, NNW of Utica on side road S. of Hiway #27 near the intersection of 27 & trace. Bird in flight above large oaks in open.

5 November '73. For your info. only. Possibly a Peregrine in flight SW of Jayess, Lawrence County, Ms. Am familiar with the Prairie Falcon & have observed an occasional Duck Hawk, some fairly close, through glasses. Were the Peregrines not so scarce I would rate this as probable.

18 October '73. First Marsh Hawk - Harrier? - noted-several seen since.

19 September. Broad Winged Hawk found dead in road S. of Ruth, Lincoln Co., Mississippi.

4 October '73. Least Bittern N. of Jayess.

16 October '73. Two flocks of Canadas flying close together and heading S. passed over Monticello, Ms. about 1745. Wind N., overcast with light drizzle and had rained about noon. After dark three other flocks were heard. Temp. predicted to drop to 40° F. tonite in Tenn. Evidently there was a well defined movement of geese on the 16th. as next day people in Hattiesburg mentioned hearing geese during the nite.

17 October '73. 23 Scaup app. Lake Mary Crawford. One Little Blue Heron, the first noted there.

18 October '73. Cattle Egrets have been very scarce locally since cool spell in early Sept. but over 70 counted in a small pasture just south of Monticello.

15 November '73. Junco.

Shrikes and Sparrow Hawks are more in evidence following each cool spell.

The Fish Crow is commonly seen and heard near Monticello."

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



Mississippi Sandhill Crane