

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955

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ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the MOS will be held on the Coast at Ocean Springs, Mississippi by invitation of the Gulf Islands National Seashore with cooperation by the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory on April 19th and 20th.

Following is a schedule for the meeting plans:

7:30 P.M. Friday, April 19th - Business meeting in lecture room of the Caylor Building, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory.

7:30 A.M. Saturday, April 20th - Bird walk on Davis Bayou, located at the headquarters of Gulf Islands National Seashore. All persons will meet in front of the Park Office located in the trailer in the former Magnolia State Park at 7:30 A.M. Mr. William Westphal, Park Naturalist, will conduct the trip.

9:00 A.M. Saturday, April 20th - Trip to Horn Island. Two boats will be available, leaving from the Park boat dock at 9:00 A.M. All persons should bring their own drink and lunch. Water will be available on the boats.

At the Friday night business meeting, Dr. Harold Howse, Director of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory will welcome the group. A slide presentation on plans for the development of Gulf Islands National Seashore will be presented by Mr. Richard A. Stokes, Park Manager, Gulf Islands National Seashore who is making arrangements for our meeting.

The Gulf Coast Research Laboratory is in the east part of Ocean Springs, south of Highway 90. Directional markers to the Laboratory and the Gulf Islands National Seashore Headquarters will be found on the south side of US Highway 90 going east from Ocean Springs. Follow the roads until they dead-end. The Gulf Islands National Seashore Headquarters is located one road east from the Laboratory road and formerly was Magnolia State Park.

There are numerous motel accommodations in the Biloxi-Ocean Springs area including Holiday and Ramada Inns. Since no food will be served at the business meeting everyone should make their own plans for the Friday evening meal. Motel reservations should be made as early as possible to insure the accommodations you want.

MEMORIES

Albert F. Ganier, founder and curator of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, died on December 20, 1973. Mr. Ganier was an honorary member of the M.O.S.

Amelia R. Laskey, a member of T.O.S. since 1927 and a long-time M.O.S. member, died December 19, 1973.

Both Mr. Ganier and Mrs. Laskey were residents of Nashville, Tennessee and were actively interested in both fauna and flora, self-taught and self-disciplined through a lifetime of study of plants and birds. W.H.T.

We extend our sympathy to Mr. E. W. Permenter in the loss of his wife, who died suddenly early this month.

WINTERING NORTHERN (BALTIMORE) ORIOLES

Mr. E. F. Ganier, Jr., Hollandale, Mississippi reports: "The sighting of a female Baltimore oriole on January 15, 1974 in Hollandale. This bird was first sighted by Mrs. Inez Treadway at her feeding shelf. Its preference of foods seemed to be the crumbs of Christmas cake that was part of the assortment. It's colors and plumage seemed especially distinct and bright--possibly because its colorful mate wasn't around for comparison.

As of the 23rd January this bird was still around making its frequent visits to the shelf." S/E. F. Ganier

Editor's Note:

Mr. Louis P. Cashman, Jr. also reported that several people had observed Northern (Baltimore) orioles in Vicksburg during the past winter season.

WHITE-FRONTED GEESE, IBIS

Dr. W. Marvin Davis reports a second sighting of White-fronted geese, a group of four (adult and immature) were on Sardis Waterfowl Refuge (Lafayette County, north of Oxford) on November 24, 1973. An earlier record, on the same area on November 23, 1972, 2 adults.

Mr. G. Edward Alexander, Jr. reported on January 29, 1974 sighting on Yazoo Refuge an ibis (must have been a white immature). The bird was with geese, got up and was observed flying, decurved bill definite, coloring not adult.

Jim Williams, Assistant Refuge Manager, reports white-fronted geese again this year and an immature golden eagle on Yazoo Refuge about a week, since has left.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER

A female vermilion flycatcher was recorded on the Jackson, Mississippi Christmas Bird Count on the Pearl River Waterfowl Refuge (Madison County) on December 29, 1973. The bird was observed deliberately through telescope by two parties. The bird stayed in the same area at the edge of a pecan orchard near a flooded area and was observed at the same location by John H. Phares and W. H. Turcotte on January 18, 1974. Mr. and Mrs. Warren Garrott and Dr. Dudley Peeler last saw the bird, still at the same location on January 27, 1974. WHT.

GREAT (COMMON) EGRETS

Twenty great (common) egrets were recorded and reported by Mrs. William G. Wills, Jr., Evelyn Tackett and Christine Berry on Pelahatchie Creek area of Ross Barnett Reservoir (Rankin County) on December 8, 1973. Steve Peterson and party recorded 18 in flight off the pipeline road, (Barnett Reservoir, Madison County) on the December 29, 1973 Christmas Bird Count. Some birds remained in this area throughout the winter and a single bird of this species was last seen on the Pearl River Waterfowl Refuge by W. H. and Annie Cook Turcotte on March 17, 1974.

PINE SISKINS

Warren and Martha Garrott reported observing on March 2, 1974 at least 12 pine siskins feeding in winged elm trees at Camp Kickapoo lake about 5 miles north of Clinton, Mississippi (Hinds County). Reported by Martha Garrott, 1816 Douglas Dr., Jackson, Mississippi 39211.

A single specimen of the pine siskin was donated to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science on February 27, 1974. This is the Museum's first specimen record for the species. The bird was given by Dr. and Mrs. Earl Fyke after it flew into their picture window and was found dead in late February. Other siskins were using their feeder at the time at their residence on 2226 Cheryl St., Jackson, Mississippi.

1973 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI

December 27; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 39° to 57°; wind SW to NNW, 5-25 m.p.h.; ground very wet, reservoir high. Four observers in 2-3 parties. Total party-hours, 20.

Common Loon, 2	Tufted Titmouse, 22
Horned Grebe, 7	Brown Creeper, 2
Pied-billed Grebe, 4	Winter Wren, 13
Double-crested Cormorant, 5	Carolina Wren, 72
Cattle Egret, 5 (new count species)	Mockingbird, 46
Canada Goose, 34	Brown Thrasher, 7
Mallard, 73	Robin, 62
Black Duck, 3	Hermit Thrush, 8
Pintail, 6	Eastern Bluebird, 16
American Widgeon, 5	Golden-crowned Kinglet, 15
Wood Duck, 5	Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 31
Lesser Scaup, 4	Water Pipit, 5
Hooded Merganser, 13	Cedar Waxwing, 12
Red-breasted Merganser, 3 (new species)	Loggerhead Shrike, 9
Turkey Vulture, 4	Common Starling, 181
Red-tailed Hawk, 7	Orange-crowned Warbler, 1
Marsh Hawk, 4	Myrtle Warbler, 9
Sparrow Hawk, 3	Pine Warbler, 2
Bobwhite, 3	House Sparrow, 15
Killdeer, 31	Eastern Meadowlark, 261
Common Snipe, 33	Red-winged Blackbird, 520
Ring-billed Gull, 32	Rusty Blackbird, 5
Bonaparte's Gull, 36	Brewer's Blackbird, 8
Mourning Dove, 113	Common Grackle, 390
Screech Owl, 1	Brown-headed Cowbird, 52
Great Horned Owl, 1	Cardinal, 178
Belted Kingfisher, 2	Purple Finch, 6
Yellow-shafted Flicker, 27	Pine Siskin, 4
Pileated Woodpecker, 8	American Goldfinch, 58
Red-bellied Woodpecker, 31	Rufous-sided Towhee, 32
Red-headed Woodpecker, 4	Savannah Sparrow, 138
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 17	Slate-colored Junco, 225
Hairy Woodpecker, 3	Tree Sparrow, 1 (BC, GH) (new count species)
Downy Woodpecker, 9	Chipping Sparrow, 25
Eastern Phoebe, 2	Field Sparrow, 189
Horned Lark, 5	White-crowned Sparrow, 3
Blue Jay, 108	White-throated Sparrow, 367
Common Crow, 35	Fox Sparrow, 27
Fish Crow, 11	Swamp Sparrow, 61
Carolina Chickadee, 55	Song Sparrow, 166

TOTAL, 80 species, about 3998 individuals. (Seen in the area the week of the count, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Least Sandpiper.)

Ben and Lula Coffey, George Hervey, Marvin Davis (compiler)

Editor's Note: Cattle Egrets, a gray-cheeked thrush, and a tree sparrow were also recorded on the Jackson, Mississippi Christmas Bird Count on December 29, 1973.
