

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955

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MOS NEWSLETTER - Vol. 19, No. 3

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FALL MEETING - NOVEMBER 8 - 9, 1974

The fall meeting of the MOS will be held at the Starkville Public Library, Starkville, Mississippi on November 8, 1974 at 7:00 PM. The Holiday Inn, Telephone No. 323-6161 and the Ramada Inn, Telephone No. 323-9550, are both located on State Highway 12 in Starkville. Program plans are incomplete at this time but arrangements for the program will be made by Burt Webster.

The Saturday, November 9th, field trip will be to Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge starting from the Headquarters on Bluff Lake.

HAWK MIGRATION NOTED

A hawk migration was observed in Jefferson County about six miles west of Lorman, Mississippi at 4:30 PM, September 29, 1974. A flight of 45 - 50 birds was counted circling and moving in a southerly direction. Temperature was in the high 60's and the day was beautiful and clear following a cold front that had passed through after midnight. Observers were Donald Lewis, Paul Carruth, Dr. Harry Gibson and George Chandler reporting the observation. The birds were mostly broadwings.

SUMMER WOODCOCK RECORD

It is unusual anywhere in Mississippi to see a woodcock in summertime. Frances Stevens who lives on Howard Street in Northeast Jackson, Mississippi saw a woodcock in her yard on July 26, 1974. George Pollitz observed and reported what was probably the same bird on an adjoining lot on Piedmont Street on July 29. The area is along a small stream bottom, part of which was heavily mulched with leaves where the bird was last seen. WHT

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER SIGHTINGS

Persistence paid off for Mrs. Ruth Downey, 1221 Greymont, Jackson, Mississippi. One of her favorite birding spots is a small scope of woods at the east end of High Street off Interstate 55 North in Jackson. The area is bordered on the east by a flood control levee. Here she saw and reported a scissor-tailed flycatcher at 2:30 on the afternoon of October 8, 1974. The bird was seen perched on a power line at a pumping station at the base of the levee. All details, pinkish sides, reddish orange at wings and long tail were noted and described. Your editor verified her telephoned report by visiting the site at 4:00 PM and the bird was still at the same location just 15 minutes from and back to the downtown office.

Another fall sighting of a scissor-tailed flycatcher was made by Jim, John and Bill Turcotte on the morning of September 7, 1974 eleven miles south of Kosciusko beside the Natchez Trace Parkway, at about the Leake-Attala County line. This bird was perched on a fence along with five eastern Kingbirds. This bird had a short tail but all other details were noted at fairly close range until it flew some distance away and alighted on a stalk in a cornfield.

IMMATURE WHITE IBIS

"I saw five immature white ibis last Sunday (August 18) near Albemarle Lake in Issaquena County. Last year I saw eight immatures at Albemarle on August 8th. They seem to have wandered away from their normal territory but perhaps it is not as unusual as it appears to me. Is there any record of these birds nesting in Mississippi?" -- Louis Cashman, PO Box 951, Vicksburg, Miss. 39180, August 20, 1974.

* Editor's Note: No breeding records for the white ibis in Mississippi that we know about. Mrs. J. H. Pepper and Mrs. Naomi Zumalt reported seeing one adult and four immature white ibis off Highway 49 West, Yazoo County, on July 3, 1974.

EAGLE SIGHTING

Mr. Robert Womack reported sighting an eagle on October 6, 1974 which was very tame and feeding on a fish on the ground at the "Basin Area" on Dixie Farms land west of Dump Lake in Yazoo County. The bird was described as brownish all over, very large but not identified by species.

RUDDY DUCKS OMITTED - MOON LAKE (LULA) CHRISTMAS COUNT

In the last MOS Newsletter, Vol. 19, No. 2 a listing of the Lula Christmas bird count on December 31, 1973 by Ben and Lula Coffey was published. Omitted from this same count record was a count of 3635 ruddy ducks on Moon Lake. WHT

OSPREY NESTING - ROSS BARNETT RESERVOIR

Mr. Charles H. Wright reported on July 10, 1974 the successful nesting of a pair of ospreys on his home place in North Rankin County near Ross Barnett Reservoir off Highway 471 near the microwave tower and south of Highway 43. The nest was in a tall pine tree. Flying young were observed about the middle of June still staying around in close proximity to the nest site. According to Mr. Wright this is the third year of nesting. The first nest was on private property across Highway 471 from his house and was occupied two seasons and abandoned when the nest tree was killed by lightning. The birds moved to the new location on his place this year.

LATE CAROLINA WREN NEST

"In mid-July, 1974, a Carolina Wren (Thryothorus ludovicianus) nest was located two miles south of Fannin, Miss. near state highway 471 in Rankin County. The nest was constructed approximately three feet above the ground in a depression in one of the shreaded paper target butts on the Jackson Archery Club field range.

On Sunday, July 21, the nest contained four eggs. An adult bird was on the nest.

The observer returned to the nest late in the afternoon of July 24 to find that all four eggs had recently hatched.

On July 30, only two of the young birds were in the nest. Both adult birds were near the nest on this date.

This may be a late nesting record for this species as mention is made of a late nesting record in the M.O.S. newsletter - Vol. 5, No. 4 as July 21, 1960.

Members of the archery club were very cooperative in not disturbing the nest."

S/ Alton Dunaway, Biologist, Game and Fish Commission

AVOCET - FIRST NOXUBEE REFUGE RECORD

"On September 20, 1974, Don Temple, the assistant refuge manager and I were observing birds on the draw down flats of Bluff Lake. Several common species of shore birds had been seen. After walking to about the center of the lake bed on exposed beds of teal grass, I saw a white bird feeding in the water's edge. We had a good pair of 7 x 50 binoculars and were able to examine the bird closely for a long time. The bird was about 50 yards away. The most striking thing we noticed about this single bird was its almost pure white appearance, black wing marks, up turned bill and size.

Upon return to the office we verified that the bird was an avocet. The bird did not have the beige neck as shown in the Peterson's Field Guide. It was white.

Both Don and I have seen avocets before at other refuges. There was absolutely no doubt in our mind as to the identity of the bird."

S/Travis H. McDaniel, Refuge Manager, Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge
Rt. 1, Brooksville, Ms. 39739

MUSEUM FOUNDATION ORGANIZED

The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation had an organizational meeting September 16, 1974 at 7:00 pm at the Natural Science Museum in Jackson, Mississippi. Thirty-nine attended the meeting. Those present and pledging a minimum of \$5.00 were declared charter members and a fifteen man board of directors was elected.

The directors elected: Billy Joe Cross, president; B. E. Gandy, vice-president; Ms. Jane Williams, secretary; and W. H. Turcotte, treasurer. The directors voted to have a statewide drive for charter members to extend through December 31, 1974. Anyone interested in being a charter member of this organization is requested

to send a contribution of \$5.00 or more to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation, c/o W. H. Turcotte, treasurer, Route 7 Box 257, Jackson, Mississippi 39209. The purpose of the foundation is to support extended services of the museum through supplementary funding.

FIRST FLIGHT - CANADA GEESE

R. L. Rodgers, Manager of Sardis Reservoir Waterfowl Refuge reported that the first 1974 flight of Canada geese came in on October 18, about 150 in the flock of first arrivals.

MORE ON FALL MEETING

Burt Webster further advises there are several features for the field trip to Noxubee Refuge. Some may want to see the Champion Shumard and Durand Oaks in Noxubee Bottoms, a nice hike of 1 3/4 miles. There are the mud flats on Loakfoma Lake and Bluff Lake which should have shorebirds and a lot of waterfowl should be in by then. Those who want to hike should wear boots and rubber footwear for those tramping for shorebirds on the mud flats. There is no University activity that week-end. Other motels are: Plantation Bell Motor Lodge - 323-2411, University Motel - 323-1421, Alumni House on the Campus - 323-5345. Travis McDaniel, Refuge Manager, will provide refuge maps and bird lists for the refuge.

MOS MEMBERSHIP DUES PAYABLE FOR 1975

This is your notice that 1975 membership dues are payable for the next calendar year. Please send check or money order payable to Mississippi Ornithological Society. Mail to: Mr. B. E. Gandy, Treasurer, MOS, 111 North Jefferson St., Jackson, Ms. 39202.

Complete the attached form and return with your dues payment.

REVISED CHECK LISTS AVAILABLE

The Field Check List Committee has completed revision of the MOS Field Check List. Copies of the new list are available at 5¢ each or 25 for \$1.00. Send your orders to Mr. B. E. Gandy, Treasurer. His address appears elsewhere in this issue.

M.O.S. ANNUAL DUES

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

CHECK ONE:

- _____ ACTIVE \$3.00
- _____ CORRESPONDING 3.00
- _____ SUSTAINING 10.00 or more
- _____ ASSOCIATE 2.00
- _____ JUNIOR 2.00
- _____ LIFE 50.00

Check or money order enclosed -- Amount \$ _____.

NOTE: If payment is for more than a single person list separate name(s) with address below:

