

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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FALL MEETING

The fall meeting of the MOS was held 7:30 P.M. at the Starkville Public Library, Starkville, Mississippi, November 8, 1974. Dr. Jerome A. Jackson presented an interesting slide program on birds at the evening meeting. About 35 members and guests attended.

The Saturday field trip on November 9 to Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge was well-attended and the day was bright and pleasant there. Ring-necked Ducks were numerous on Bluff Lake, with Lesser Scaup, Pintail, American Widgeon, Mallard and Wood Ducks being sighted. Shorebirds including numerous Common Snipe, a Lesser Yellowlegs and Least Sandpipers were recorded on Loakfoma Lake. Common Egrets were also sighted. The group visited refuge headquarters and the overlook at the goose pen where some free-flying Canada Geese were observed. We saw and heard the Red-cockaded Woodpecker at a den tree site west of the goose pen at the upper edge of Bluff Lake. Field Sparrows were observed at two different locations feeding on seeds of broomstraw (Andropogon Sp.). We had lunch at the nearby country store off of car hoods. Our thanks to Burt Webster for the arrangements and for a taste of his limburger cheese.

SOME FALL OBSERVATIONS - WASHINGTON COUNTY

"September 20, 21 and 23, 1974 - A total of at least 30 Hummingbirds seen in the three days feeding almost exclusively on a wild, parasitic-type, pumpkin-like vine (white flowers). Lake Washington, Mississippi.

October 13 - 25, 1974 - Nashville Warblers, 4 Tennessee Warblers, and 3 Black-throated Green Warblers all in one flock feeding in goatweed at Warfield Point (on the River).

On October 16, 1974 - On Lake Washington - 2 Loons (probably Common), one in winter plumage, one changing.

On October 21, 1974 - Vermilion Flycatcher back at Lake Jackson for third year (2 males; pretty sure 1 immature; maybe 1 female or immature). Birds not there on October 17 or 19.

Birds Not Common To Our Area: (Transients, I Assume):

September 21, 1974 - Red-eyed Vireo (5 or 6)

September 29, 1974 - Rose-breasted Grosbeak (10 - 12); Black-and-white Warbler; Chimney Swift.

October 12, 1974 - Chipping Sparrow

October 17, 1974 - Catbird

Summer Species Still Here:

September 27, 1974 - Female Baltimore (Northern) Oriole

October 9, 1974 - Indigo Bunting (in molt)

October 21, 1974 - Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Notes On Purple Gallinule Nest:

Deer Lake Slough (Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge) about 50 feet out in water in Lotus Lilies. First seen July 4, 1974; on nest still July 7, '74; saw several adults after that but no young. Lilies were fairly dense, however."

Ed Alexander, Jr., November 12, 1974

PURPLE FINCH - FIRST ARRIVALS

Miss Christine Berry reports first arrivals of Purple Finches at her feeders on North State Street in Jackson: 1 Male November 12, 2 Females November 14 and 3 Males, 2 Females on November 27, 1974. WHT

KING EIDER RECORD IN HATTIESBURG AREA

"On November 10, 1974 I saw what I thought was a Scoter at the Hattiesburg Sewage Ponds. When I looked at it closely through my telescope, however, I found that I was wrong. It was an immature male King Eider. I photographed the bird and would be happy to send you a copy if you are interested after I finish the roll and get the pictures processed.

I had Black Skimmers in Hattiesburg on August 28, 1974 and September 14, 1974. Several species of waterfowl were here very early this fall. Horned Grebes (3 of them) were here on September 3, 1974."

Dr. Larry Gates, 100 N. 32nd Ave., Apt. 4, Hattiesburg, Ms. 39401

* Editor's Note: A sketch showing identifying field marks on the above King Eider record was submitted with the report. A photograph sent to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, 111 N. Jefferson St., Jackson, Ms. 39202 would be appreciated. The only other known record is a wing of the King Eider collected during the 1960-61 Annual Duck Wing Survey taken December 17, 1960 by L. M. Brister, Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi. Inland records of the Black Skimmer have been recorded after Gulf storms. John H. Phares recorded 5 on a pond north of the Marion-Prentiss County Line on Highway 13 and others smashed in Highway 49 by traffic as far north

as Simpson County Lake near Magee, Mississippi (MOS Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 1, p. 4).

WHISTLING SWANS IN TUNICA COUNTY

Wildlife Conservation Officer Cliff Thornton observed five Whistling Swans in flooded bean fields west of Tunica, Mississippi (Tunica County) on December 31, 1974. These birds had been seen in the same area with mallard ducks several times previously by Mr. Thornton and were reported in the area on the above date. WHT

SWALLOW-TAILED KITES - OTHER LAWRENCE COUNTY NOTES

"There were two known sightings of Swallow-tailed Kites in Lawrence County this past Spring and Summer. On the 15th and again on the 18th of April a single bird was seen flying over Monticello, Mississippi and on August 7th, Mr. Smith, a forester with Crown-Zellerbach asked to see the bird book. After looking at the picture of the Swallow-tailed Kite he stated, "That's what I saw again this P. M. below Tilton. You couldn't mistake that pattern." The Kite was near Highway 587 which parallels the Pearl River and about 10 miles north of the popular scenic area known locally as "Red Bluff".

Other Highlights:

November:

1. Two immature Cooper Hawks, a male and female judging by difference in size. Lake Mary Crawford.
2. Immature Cooper's Hawk, apparently a female, LMC. From its perch on a dead snag the hawk made several flights to a feeding Snowy Heron and briefly hovered over it when the heron stood its ground facing its would-be attacker. These were not the driving, aggressive attacks common to the Cooper. In each case the hawk withdrew without striking, apparently intimidated by the threat posture of the heron.
15. Lone Tree Swallow coursing low over water. One Solitary Vireo. LMC.
16. First Junco seen locally although one sighted on MOS Noxubee field trip of November 9.
21. Ninety - 100 Mallards. LMC. More Mallards and Ruddy Ducks at lake this year.
26. Brown Creeper. LMC.

December:

3. House Wren. LMC.

December 7, 1974, Florence and Carl Bauer, Monticello, Mississippi.

FIRST 1975 REPORT - EVENING GROSBEAK

Miss Christine Berry (personal communication) reported sighting of one female Evening Grosbeak at feeder on January 12, 1975, North State Street in north Jackson, Mississippi. WHT

1974 CHRISTMAS COUNT
WASHINGTON COUNTY (SOUTH), MISSISSIPPI
12-22-74

Common Loon	2	Tree Swallow	14
Pied-billed Grebe	<u>82</u>	Blue Jay	<u>139</u>
Anhinga	<u>1</u>	Carolina Chickadee	<u>49</u>
Cattle Egret	<u>1</u>	Tufted Titmouse	<u>4</u>
Canada Goose	<u>30</u>	Brown Creeper	<u>4</u>
Snow Goose	<u>49</u>	Winter Wren	<u>21</u>
Snow Goose (blue form)	<u>191</u>	Carolina Wren	<u>28</u>
Mallard	<u>18503</u>	Long-billed Marsh Wren	<u>1</u>
Gadwall	<u>23</u>	Mockingbird	<u>73</u>
Pintail	<u>38</u>	Brown Thrasher	<u>17</u>
Green-winged Teal	<u>40</u>	Am. Robin	<u>682</u>
Am. Wigeon	<u>50</u>	Hermit Thrush	<u>8</u>
N. Shoveler	<u>31</u>	E. Bluebird	<u>6</u>
Wood Duck	<u>128</u>	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<u>2</u>
Ring-necked Duck	<u>4</u>	Golden-crowned Kinglet	<u>30</u>
Lesser Scaup	<u>2810</u>	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<u>68</u>
Bufflehead	<u>108</u>	Water Pipit	<u>7</u>
Ruddy Duck	<u>4700</u>	Cedar Waxwing	<u>4</u>
Hooded Merganser	<u>152</u>	Loggerhead Shrike	<u>5</u>
Turkey Vulture	<u>1</u>	Starling	<u>365</u>
Red-tailed Hawk	<u>19</u>	Orange-crowned Warbler	<u>3</u>
Red-shouldered Hawk	<u>1</u>	Myrtle Warbler	<u>222</u>
Marsh Hawk	<u>3</u>	Pine Warbler	<u>3</u>
Am. Kestrel	<u>28</u>	House Sparrow	<u>434</u>
Bobwhite	<u>2</u>	E. Meadowlark	<u>285</u>
Am. Coot	<u>251</u>	Red-winged Blackbird	<u>200</u>
Killdeer	<u>115</u>	Rusty Blackbird	<u>66</u>
Am. Woodcock	<u>2</u>	Common Grackle	<u>534</u>
Least Sandpiper	<u>1</u>	Brown-headed Cowbird	<u>638</u>
Rock Dove	<u>86</u>	Cardinal	<u>475</u>
Mourning Dove	<u>378</u>	Purple Finch	<u>5</u>
Great Horned Owl	<u>1</u>	Am. Goldfinch	<u>108</u>
Belted Kingfisher	<u>1</u>	Rufous-sided Towhee	<u>14</u>
Common Flicker (Yel.-sh.)	<u>95</u>	Savannah Sparrow	<u>141</u>
Pileated Woodpecker	<u>18</u>	Le Conte's Sparrow	<u>3</u>
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<u>41</u>	Vesper Sparrow	<u>1</u>
Red-headed Woodpecker	<u>2</u>	Slate-colored Junco	<u>288</u>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<u>30</u>	Field Sparrow	<u>69</u>
Hairy Woodpecker	<u>20</u>	White-crowned Sparrow	<u>45</u>
Downy Woodpecker	<u>24</u>	White-throated Sparrow	<u>775</u>
E. Phoebe	<u>9</u>	Fox Sparrow	<u>25</u>
Vermillion Flycatcher	<u>2</u>	Swamp Sparrow	<u>167</u>
Horned Lark	<u>112</u>	Song Sparrow	<u>301</u>

22 observers, wind stronger in P. M. 85 species, 1 additional color form (blue (snow) goose).

Ed Alexander, Compiler

WINTER COAST RECORDS

"I believe you will be interested to know of a pair of Baltimore Orioles wintering in a friend's yard here. They have been in this place since the day before Thanksgiving.

Last Friday (Jan. 17) my friend called saying she thought was an Orchard Oriole also. I went over yesterday and the three birds were still there, the pair of Baltimore Orioles and a male Orchard Oriole.

Sunday (Jan. 19) I banded a Chuck-wills-widow (female) in my yard.

At this time I have close to 100 Purple Finches and at least 50 Goldfinches coming to feeders on my deck."

S/ Ethel Floyd, 333 Southern Circle, Gulfport, Miss. 39501 - Jan. 23, 1975.

NOTES FROM VICKSBURG

"William Bobb reported seeing a female hummingbird in Vicksburg on January 10, 1975. He observed it from a distance of about 10 feet for 2 or 3 minutes while the bird was feeding on a shrub he identified as winter honeysuckle. He saw the bird at approximately 8 a.m. Mr. Bobb feeds hummingbirds during the summer and I feel certain he knew what he saw.

Dr. and Mrs. L. G. Horn, of Vicksburg, reported that they saw a female hummingbird in Magee, Mississippi on December 29, 1974. They observed the bird at close range for about 5 minutes feeding and resting on a quince shrub. They saw the bird at approximately 1 p.m. Dr. and Mrs. Horn also feed hummingbirds during the summer and are experienced birders, and again, I am certain that they knew what they saw.

These two reports are the first I have ever heard of hummingbirds in this area in December and January.

This morning, Mrs. George Martin reported one male and one female Evening Grosbeak at a feeder in her yard. This is the first report of Evening Grosbeaks I have heard of in Vicksburg this year.

I have had 4 or 5 reports of Northern (Baltimore) Orioles in Vicksburg in December and January and had one in my own yard in December. Apparently, however, it is not unusual for orioles to winter in this area." S/Louis P. Cashman, Jr., Jan. 21, 1975.

20TH ANNUAL SPRING MEETING PLANS

Ed Alexander and Burt Webster have confirmed plans for our Spring meeting to be held on Dauphin Island, Alabama, April 11 - 12, 1975. Arrangements have been made through Mr. Jim Spafford of the Mobile Bird Club for joint activities for which we are appreciative and extend our thanks.

The format of our meeting will be:

Friday, April 11, 8:00 P.M. Meeting Room reserved at Holiday Inn on the Island for business meeting, election of officers and program. This will be an exclusive MOS meeting.

Saturday, April 12: Early morning field trip with Mobile Bird Club, time and place to be announced.

On your own for lunch -- continue field trip in P.M.

For evening meal: Meet with Mobile Bird Club for a fish supper (chicken optional) at a cost of about \$3.50 each. Compile our list for the day. Time and place to be announced.

Sunday - on your own.

Motel Information: Holiday Inn of Dauphin Island, Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528 is reserving a group of 14 rooms until 4 P.M. April 11th.

Group rates are: 1 person \$15.57; 2 persons \$18.05; additional person \$3.80; rollaways \$4.00.

Rate is per night plus 4% state sales tax.

Please make your own motel reservation in advance.

Please advise by card or letter your plans to attend meeting and Saturday evening meal to: Mr. G. E. Alexander, Jr.
1749 Azalea Drive
Greenville, Miss. 38701.

This is necessary to plan for the supper which will be prepared by a church group.