

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955

G. EDWARD ALEXANDER, JR.
President
1749 W. Azalea Drive
Greenville, Mississippi
38701

MR. R. C. ROBERTS
Vice-President
593 Sykes Road
Jackson, Mississippi
39212

MRS. RUTH E. DOWNEY
1221 Greymont, Secretary
Jackson, Mississippi
39202

B. E. GANDY
Treasurer
111 N. Jefferson St.
Jackson, Mississippi
39202

May 16, 1975

MOS NEWSLETTER - Vol. 20, No. 2

Compiled by: W. H. Turcotte
Editor, MOS
Rt. 7 Box 257
Jackson, Miss.
39209

MOS ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting and field trip was held at Dauphin Island, Alabama April 11-13, 1975. The business meeting was held at 8:00 P.M. at the Holiday Inn, Mr. Burton S. Webster presiding as President. About 48 members attended. The Treasurer's report was given by Mr. Webster in the absence of Mr. B. E. Gandy, Treasurer. The membership voted to make the annual payment of \$75.00 toward maintenance of the Cliftonville heronry upon the recommendation of Mr. Webster, payment to be made to the Federal Land Bank for one-half the annual rental. The Treasurer was authorized to pay this amount.

The Nominating Committee, Mr. Steve Peterson, Chairman, made its report submitting the above slate of officers to serve until the next annual meeting. No nominations were submitted from the floor. Members voted and elected the above slate of officers.

The J. W. Tucker Award Committee and the membership selected Mr. William Y. Quisenberry, Director of the Wildlife Heritage Program, as recipient of the medalion for 1975 for his extraordinary effort in working toward passage of legislation enabling the purchase of over 40,000 acres of Pascagoula Hardwood Company lands in George, Jackson, Jones and Perry Counties. Mr. Quisenberry made over 50 talks with film programs throughout the State explaining the purpose and scope of the acquisition of these lands for the people of Mississippi to be used as a wildlife and wilderness preserve and recreation area.

W. H. Turcotte gave a resume of the background for the legislation enabling the purchase of these lands.

Dr. Gordon Gunter, introduced by Mr. Webster, gave the program, speaking on the origin of birds and evolution of species to the present time. Dr. Gunter distributed copies of information illustrating his presentation.

Some members arrived early for birding on the Island Friday. On Saturday, members divided into groups with party leaders from the Mobile Bird Club. The weather conditions were ideal for observing large numbers of migrants. The temperature was

cool with a steady northwesterly wind favorable to causing birds to drop down and remain on their first landfall. The number and variety of species observed up to Saturday evening could only be described as fabulous. MOS and Mobile Bird Club members listed an incredible number of species. A field check list of birds observed on Dauphin Island is reproduced showing species recorded April 11 - 13, 1975. The official count was announced at the Saturday evening seafood dinner at the Auditorium as 175 species.

Special thanks are due the Mobile Bird Club members and to MOS officers for making arrangements and for guide services. Also, to the church group that prepared and served the generous and delicious seafood dinner Saturday evening.

Members were on their own Sunday and stayed on to enjoy the delightful birding that appeared to be just as good as before.

FIRST RECORD OF A SAW-WHET OWL IN MISSISSIPPI

At approximately 12:30 P.M. on April 16, 1974, I was at my parent's house telling my father about the discovery of a Barred Owl's nest, when we heard the mobbing calls of several Blue Jays. I investigated and found the jays clustered around a hedge of Ligustrum at the east end of the house (located at 2127 E. Northside Dr., Jackson).

Searching the hedge, I literally came face to face with an adult Saw-whet Owl (Aegolius acadicus). The owl was typical in all field markings with rounded earless head, dark brown in color with facial disks streaked with white. The dark brown upperparts were irregularly spotted with white. Breast and belly were white with rufous streaks running full length. Eyes were yellow.

The owl was approximately seven inches long, noticeably smaller than a Screech Owl. The fact that it was so small leads me to assume that it was a male, rather than a female, which, as is the case with most raptors, tends to be bigger than the male.

The owl's behavior was typical of the reputation of the Saw-whet; it was extremely tame, allowing a very close approach. The lens of a camera two feet away did not bother it in the least, nor did the constant stream of observers, which included W. H. Turcotte, John Phares, Aubrey Taylor, and Dudley Peeler.

The owl remained on its perch in the Ligustrum for approximately seven hours until nightfall, when it left. It was not seen again.

This is apparently the first record of a Saw-whet Owl in Mississippi.

Stephen W. Peterson, 386 Raymond Rd., Apt. 7-C, Jackson, Ms. 39204.

EARLY SPRING BIRD NOTES

Dec. 2, 1974 - While in Biloxi for the Horn Island hearings, at sunrise on the beach, I photographed a shorebird. It did not identify it immediately, but when the film was processed, I finally identified it as a Black-bellied Plover, in winter plumage.

Feb. 13, 1975 - At approximately 4:15 P.M. along a slough in Riverside Park in Jackson, I hooted up the male of the resident pair of Barred Owls, in an attempt to locate this year's nest, the previous year's having fallen over. In spite of the fact that I have constantly hooted up this pair of owls for the last three years, the male came very quickly, gliding up to a cypress at the slough's edge, about a hundred feet away. We hooted back and forth for a while, then the female appeared, landing on a branch about fifty feet away, and hooting at the male with her wings half-dropped. Both owls then

duetted, the female giving out with a constant "hoo-hoo-hoo-..." and the male a laughter-like "whah-whah-whah". The male then flew toward the female, circled around and back of her and actually landed on her back and attempted to mate. The female, however, shook him off, and both flew across the slough, where the duetting started up again. The sun had now set, so I couldn't see anything more. The female apparently was the last to leave, as she hooted several times before I left.

Feb. 15, 1975 - Female Black-throated Blue Warbler seen along nature trail in Riverside Park in Jackson from about eight feet away. The white wing-spot was plainly evident.

Feb. 22, 1975 - The Riverside Park female Barred Owl replied to my hoots while sitting on the edge of a barkless, dead tree about sixty feet high with an apparent cavity in it; all the appearances of a typical Barred Owl nest. However, have not observed her actually in the tree since, although both owls have been in the area since.

March 15, 1975 - The Jackson Audubon Society made a field trip to Delta National Forest and saw 51 species of birds. Among those seen were Pileated Woodpeckers, in greater number than I have ever seen before. Hooted up 3 Barred Owls, 1 male and 2 females. Along a flooded field were seen several species of shorebirds: Killdeer, Common Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Least Sandpipers. Also seen were Tree Swallow, and a Purple Martin. Along a levee road 3 Horned Larks were sighted. Waterfowl seen included Wood Duck, Mallard, Redhead, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, and Ringnecked Ducks.

March 16, 1975 - Parula Warblers singing in Riverside Park, Jackson.

March 22, 1975 - Two male Parula Warblers chased each other for about two hours singing constantly, apparently settling a territorial dispute. A female or immature Ruby-throated Hummingbird was observed both flying and perching.

Steve Peterson, March 24, 1975.

MORE SPRING NOTES - JACKSON AREA

Feb. 2, 1975 - Cattle Egret seen along the edge of Hwy. 43 near entrance to Pearl River Waterfowl Refuge. The legs were black, so I assumed it was immature.

March 27, 1975 - Kentucky Warbler seen along Riverside Park Nature Trail. Later on in the Mayes Lake area of the park, in the lake located behind the Quarter shopping center on Lakeland Dr., spotted a three or four week old Barred Owl sitting on a branch about 5 feet above the water. The day was quite windy and I spotted a Ring-billed Gull trying to make his way against the wind.

March 29, 1975 - The young owl had now climbed up to a higher branch. The female of the Mayes Lake pair of Barred Owls was in a tree near the edge of the lake, watching over the young owl, however she flew away upon seeing me. Along the nature trail were several Goldfinches in spring plumage.

March 30, 1975 - The young owl still in the cypress tree. Purple Martins skimming across the water. Along Riverside's nature trail a Wood Thrush was singing and a Veery was sitting on a dead log. A Prothonotary Warbler seen was the first of the season in Riverside.

April 1, 1975 - As I got out of my car in Riverside's parking lot, a Painted Bunting flew out of a bush along with a flock of Juncos. Along the nature trail, Parulas, Myrtles, and Prothonotary Warblers all singing. Chimney Swifts flying over the park.

Near the lowhead dam, managed to squeak up a Hooded Warbler. In Mayes Lake, the young owl was still in the cypress tree. As I started to leave after photographing him, I found another young owl in the next cypress. This one was a little bigger, so he is probably older by a few days. I should mention that these owls' parents also produced two young last year. A Green Heron called and a White-eyed Vireo started singing.

April 2 - Learned some new things about Barred Owl behavior today. The time was about 5:00 P.M. The two little owls were not in the cypresses, so I started to search among the trees along the edge of the lake. As I searched, I heard a sort of whistling chatter. I looked in the direction of the sound and saw one of the parent owls gliding away. Then both parents began to give single hoots, "Hoo-ah" which seems to translate as "go away!" They were both visible, as they flew to one tree, then back to the starting place. Now the whistle-chatter came again. Then some Blue Jays started to give their alarm call behind me, so I turned around, looked up and found the two young owls, close together, but in separate trees. The younger one was looking back at me, the older one paid no attention. Now, one of the parents began to chatter. I looked, and saw the owl, apparently caught on a branch, flapping its wings half-drooped and scrabbling at a branch with its free foot. I immediately ran to see what was wrong and as I did so, the owl flew to another branch and repeated the "caught" performance. I realized that I had just witnessed a distraction display, apparently to draw me away from the young ones. I have never seen or heard of Barred Owls doing this before. As I left, a Veery began to sing, and Great Crested Flycatchers were calling.

April 3 - Riverside, 4:00 P.M. Myrtle Warblers all over the park. Hermit Thrushes also in good numbers. Saw Prothonotary, Hooded and Parula Warblers. If you like swallows Mayes Lake was the place to be today. Skimming over one of the lakes were 5 Barn Swallows, 1 Purple Martin, 1 Tree Swallow, and for good measure, 2 Chimney Swifts joined in. The baby owls hadn't moved from the trees. Broken pellet remains showed that they had eaten crayfish. On the way out, I saw the stocked Mallards. With them was a Ring-necked Duck, wild or stocked I don't know.

April 4 - Riverside, 4:30 P.M. Hooded, Myrtle, Parula, and Prothonotary Warblers all singing. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Cedar Waxwings in trees near lowhead dam. Blue-winged Teal, male and female, were swimming in one of the sloughs. In Mayes Lake the two little Barred Owls had moved across the road. Pellets indicated that the older one had eaten crayfish and fish, while the young one had eaten mainly fish. One of the parents, I am assuming the female, since the owl was large, went through the distraction display and whistle-chattering twice. The little owls were in separate trees, and as I moved from tree to tree, the female tried to distract me again, and the male whistle-chattered. Since the parents were so agitated I left.

April 5 - Riverside, 7:30 A.M. At the start of the trail I listened to a Mockingbird mimic a Flicker, then a Cardinal. Saw Myrtle, Parula, Prothonotary, and Hooded Warblers. Along the trail leading to Mayes Lakes, a fussing pair of a Tufted Titmice were mobbing a brown phase Screech Owl about 15 feet up in a sapling. The owl pretended to be a dead stump as I took its picture. Further up the trail a flock of about 200 Goldfinches were feasting in the trees. Flushed a Great Blue Heron in Mayes Lake. The young Barred Owls have moved about 100 feet to the west, again in separate trees. This was about 10:00 A.M. and there were no pellets yet. Back in Riverside along a ridge I almost stepped on a Worm-eating Warbler, who sat very still while I got a good look at it. 5:00 P.M. The young owls still haven't produced any pellets. The Screech Owl was still roosting, and the Worm-eating Warbler made another appearance and a Summer Tanager, a male apparently just becoming adult as there was a greenish cast to his plumage which mixed with the red made him look orange.

April 6 - Riverside, 7:30 A.M. In the Mayes Lake area, the baby owls had moved again to different trees. Pellets were crayfish. In addition the parents had brought them each a 3 inch Lepomis sp. (Sunfish) but as both fish were on the ground, apparently the young weren't able to hold on to the fish and dropped them. Both fish had been bitten in the head. Warblers: Myrtles as usual. Prothonotaries seem more numerous. Yellowthroats, Hooded and Parulas all singing. Worm-eating Warbler by the waterfall, and several Blue-winged Warblers feeding among the leaves. Both White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, the Yellow-throateds with apparent nest material.

April 7 - Riverside, 4:30 P.M. The young owls have moved again, and pellets show crayfish remains. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron flew by, the first one I've seen this year. They are about two weeks late (in the park, which has been flooded for a month.) but may have been in the area, and stayed away from the park's high waters. Also saw Great Blue and Green Heron.

April 8 - Riverside, 4:30 P.M. Young owls have moved again, each in different trees, but near each other. Spotted a Louisiana Waterthrush. The same Screech Owl was back at his place, and while I was watching him, 3 Yellow-crowned Night Heron flew across the Pearl River and landed in among the trees, squawking at each other.

April 9 - Riverside, 3:30 P.M. The young owls hid themselves well; it took me an hour to find them. Pellets showed, as usual, crayfish remains. White-eyed Vireos, Yellow-throated Vireos, and Summer Tanager singing. Male White-throated Sparrows in bright spring plumage; yellow lores highly visible. A female Parula Warbler was working on a nest of Spanish Moss near the waterfall along the nature trail.

April 10 - Riverside, 5:00 P.M. Both of the young owls were on the same branch today, in fact, right next to each other, one facing forward, the other facing backward. Both about the same size now, and growing fast.

April 11 - At parent's house on Northside Drive a Red-eyed Vireo was singing.

April 13 - Dauphin Island, Alabama. On the way back from Dauphin Island about 1 1/2 miles south of the junction of Highways 163 and 188 we saw a female Boat-tailed Grackle and a Yellow Rail, which flushed and showed its white wing patches. S. Peterson.

NESTING BEHAVIOR - CAROLINA CHICKADEE

Mr. Vic Duvic (personal communication) reported on the nesting cycle of a pair of chickadees in an artificially erected structure in his yard at 1735 Wilhurst, Jackson, Ms. 39211. He erected a 14" x 8 inch diameter hardwood section with a partly drilled hole and placed on the side of a tree. Sugar water was poured in the entrance hole and aluminium sheeting attached for a roof. On February 15 - 16, 1975 the birds were observed excavating. They were observed still excavating on February 26 to March 5. On March 29th and 30th a bird in the nest cavity hissed and tapped inside the cavity when it was being examined. The young left the nest on April 16th. Only two young were observed by Mr. Duvic after they left the nest. WHT

BALD EAGLE NEST SUCCESSFUL

The pair of Bald Eagles that nested on Big Biloxi River, Harrison County this year produced a fledgling. This nesting was described in The Mississippi Kite, No. 6, pages 14 and 15. Mr. Walter A. Fowler, Conservation Officer, observed the fledgling fly from the nest on March 19, 1975. The young bird made several short flights and then was seen in full flight. WHT

EVENING GROSBEAK

Miss Christine Berry reports a single male Evening Grosbeak sighting observed by Miss Ellen Steele Satterfield at her feeding station in Port Gibson, Mississippi on February 5, 1975.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

On March 10, 1975 Mrs. Tom Holden and Miss Christine Berry observed and reported a Red-breasted Nuthatch at the Holden's feeding station, 1738 Brecon Drive, Jackson, Mississippi.

ENDANGERED SPECIES STAMPS FOR SALE

The State Game and Fish Commission has designed and issued a limited edition of 5000 serially-numbered stamps for sale at \$5.00 each or \$25.00 for a sheet of five stamps. Their purpose is to produce revenue for non-game and endangered species management. The official stamp is a four-color reproduction of a pair of Mississippi Sandhill Cranes in flight. They are available from: State Game and Fish Commission, Endangered Species, Box 451, Jackson, Mississippi 39205. A free 4-inch square decal accompanies each stamp purchased. Personal checks will be accepted, but allow two weeks for delivery.

These stamps are issued to help support programs for non-game species. Hunters and fishermen in the past mainly have supported non-game programs with their license dollars. MOS members are invited to purchase these stamps to help carry out programs authorized under the Non-Game and Endangered Species Act of 1974. Your editor already has purchased a sheet of these stamps so I challenge each of you to help support this program with your dollars.

OSPREY NEST ON DEER ISLAND

"For the sake of the record, a senior staff member came in and reported to me on a pair of eagles nesting on Deer Island on April 25. I immediately got a boat and went over there but we could not land. I got close enough to see the birds flying in the far distance. On April 29 Mr. David Burke and I returned with the boat and crew. This time we had a skiff. Burke and two men went ashore and as I told the boatman, I could tell by the way they walked when they returned that they had found no eagle, but it is an active nest and the female did not leave it at all.

Sadly enough, we heard a lot of shotgun shooting down the island shore and I hope they do not find those birds. Anyway, there are no records of the osprey nesting on Deer Island during the twenty years that I have been here."

S/ Gordon Gunter, Director Emeritus, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory,
PO Dr AG, Ocean Spring, Ms. 39564
May 1, 1975

MORE SIGHTINGS

One Swallow-tailed Kite, Christine Berry, F. Wills, R. Downey, E. Tackett on Chickasawhay River Bridge between Lucedale and McLain, a life bird for all aboard.
Date: Wednesday, May 14, 1975.

1 Yellowthroat ✓	4 Grosbeak, Evening ✓
1 Chat, Yellow-breasted ✓	Finch, Purple ✓
1 Warbler, Hooded ✓	Siskin, Pine ✓
Warbler, Wilson's ✓	Goldfinch, American ✓
Warbler, Canada ✓	4 Crossbill, Red ✓
Redstart, American ✓	1 Towhee, Rufous-sided ✓
1 Sparrow, House ✓	Sparrow, Savannah ✓
Bobolink ✓	Sparrow, Grasshopper ✓
1 Meadowlark, Eastern ✓	Sparrow, LeConte's ✓
1 Meadowlark, Western ✓	Sparrow, Henslow's ✓
4 Blackbird, Yellow-headed ✓	3 Sparrow, Sharp-tailed ✓
1 Blackbird, Red-winged ✓	2, 3 Sparrow, Seaside ✓
1 Oriole, Orchard ✓	Sparrow, Vesper ✓
1 Oriole, Northern ✓	1 Sparrow, Lark ✓
Blackbird, Rusty ✓	1 Sparrow, Bachman's ✓
Blackbird, Brewer's ✓	Junco, Dark-eyed ✓
1, 3 Grackle, Boat-tailed ✓	4 Sparrow, Tree ✓
1 Grackle, Common ✓	1 Sparrow, Chipping ✓
1 Cowbird, Brown-headed ✓	4 Sparrow, Clay-colored ✓
4 Tanager, Western ✓	1 Sparrow, Field ✓
2 Tanager, Scarlet ✓	4 Sparrow, Harris' ✓
1 Tanager, Summer ✓	Sparrow, White-crowned ✓
1 Cardinal ✓	Sparrow, White-throated ✓
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted ✓	Sparrow, Fox ✓
4 Grosbeak, Black-headed ✓	Sparrow, Lincoln's ✓
1 Grosbeak, Blue ✓	Sparrow, Swamp ✓
1 Bunting, Indigo ✓	Sparrow, Song ✓
1 Bunting, Painted ✓	Longspur, Lapland ✓
1 Dickcissel ✓	4 Longspur, Smith's ✓

175 Species

HYPOTHETICAL LIST

12 species of birds observed in Mississippi
but not confirmed by collection or photograph.

Loon, Red-throated	Hawk, Rough-legged
Grebe, Western	Hawk, Ferruginous
Petrel, Leach's	Gull, Black-headed
Teal, Cinnamon	Swift, Vaux
Scoter, Surf	Warbler, Black-throated Gray
Scoter, Common	Warbler, Connecticut

NOTES: Cold in early morning - Northernly wind 20+ mph, clear to partly cloudy preceded by a frontal system passing April 10th. About 48 MDS members & guests participating.

Prepared by Records Committee
Mississippi Ornithological Society—1974
Order from M.O.S., 111 N. Jefferson St.,
Jackson, Miss., 39202—5¢ per copy, 25 for \$1.00

FIELD CHECK-LIST

325 species of living birds collected or photographed in Mississippi

Nomenclature and sequence—A.O.U. Check-list, 5th Edition, revised
Families are separated by lines.

Symbols: 1. Breeding confirmed: Eggs or young collected or photographed.
2. Breeding noted: Nest or young seen, but not confirmed.
3. Largely confined to the coast.
4. Rarely found in the state, or distinctly local.

OBSERVER(S) MDS + MOBILE BIRD CLUB
LOCALITY Dolphin Island, Alabama
DATE April 11-13, 1975 REMARKS Annual MDS
Spring Meeting and Field Trip

Loon, Common ✓	4 Duck, Fulvous Tree ✓
Grebe, Horned ✓	Mallard ✓
4 Grebe, Eared ✓	Duck, Black ✓
1 Grebe, Pied-billed ✓	1, 3 Duck, Mottled ✓
Pelican, White ✓	Gadwall ✓
3, 4 Pelican, Brown ✓	Pintail ✓
3 Gannet ✓	Teal, Green-winged ✓
2 Cormorant, Double-crested ✓	Teal, Blue-winged ✓
1 Anhinga ✓	Wigeon ✓
3 Frigatebird, Magnificent ✓	Shoveler ✓
1 Heron, Great Blue ✓	1 Duck, Wood ✓
1 Heron, Green ✓	Redhead ✓
1 Heron, Little Blue ✓	Duck, Ring-necked ✓
1 Egret, Cattle ✓	Canvasback ✓
3 Egret, Reddish ✓	3, 4 Scaup, Greater ✓
1 Egret, Great ✓	Scaup, Lesser ✓
2 Egret, Snowy ✓	Goldeneye, Common ✓
Heron, Louisiana ✓	Bufflehead ✓
2 Heron, Black-crowned ✓	Oldsquaw ✓
Night ✓	3, 4 Eider, King ✓
1 Heron, Yellow-crowned ✓	Scoter, White-winged ✓
Night ✓	Duck, Ruddy ✓
1 Bittern, Least ✓	1 Merganser, Hooded ✓
Bittern, American ✓	4 Merganser, Common ✓
Stork, Wood ✓	Merganser, Red-breasted ✓
4 Ibis, Glossy ✓	1 Vulture, Turkey ✓
4 Ibis, White-faced ✓	1 Vulture, Black ✓
Ibis, White ✓	Kite, Swallow-tailed ✓
4 Spoonbill, Roseate ✓	1 Kite, Mississippi ✓
4 Swan, Whistling ✓	Hawk, Sharp-shinned ✓
Goose, Canada ✓	1 Hawk, Cooper's ✓
4 Goose, White-fronted ✓	1 Hawk, Red-tailed ✓
Goose, Snow ✓	1 Hawk, Red-shouldered ✓
	1 Hawk, Broad-winged ✓
	4 Hawk, Swainson's ✓
	4 Hawk, Harris' ✓

Eagle, Golden
 2 Eagle, Bald
 Hawk, Marsh
 2 Osprey
 Falcon, Peregrine
 Merlin
 1 Kestrel, American
 1 Bobwhite
 1 Turkey
 1, 4 Crane, Sandhill
 4 Limpkin
 1 Rail, King
 1, 3 Rail, Clapper
 Rail, Virginia
 Sora
 4 Rail, Yellow
 4 Rail, Black
 1 Gallinule, Purple
 1 Gallinule, Common
 2 Coot, American
 3, 4 Oystercatcher, American
 Plover, Semipalmated
 3 Plover, Piping
 2, 3 Plover, Snowy
 1, 3 Plover, Wilson's
 1 Killdeer
 Plover, American Golden
 Plover, Black-bellied
 3 Turnstone, Ruddy
 1 Woodcock, American
 Snipe, Common
 4 Curlew, Long-billed
 3 Whimbrel
 Sandpiper, Upland
 Sandpiper, Spotted
 Sandpiper, Solitary
 2, 3 Willet
 Yellowlegs, Greater
 Yellowlegs, Lesser
 3 Knot, Red
 Sandpiper, Pectoral
 Sandpiper, White-rumped
 4 Sandpiper, Baird's
 Sandpiper, Least
 3 Dunlin
 Dowitcher, Short-billed
 Dowitcher, Long-billed
 Sandpiper, Stilt
 Sandpiper, Semipalmated
 Sandpiper, Western
 Sandpiper, Buff-breasted
 3 Godwit, Marbled

3 Sanderling
 Avocet, American
 3 Stilt, Black-necked
 4 Phalarope, Wilson's
 3, 4 Jaeger, Parasitic
 4 Gull, Glaucous
 Gull, Herring
 Gull, Ring-billed
 1, 3 Gull, Laughing
 4 Gull, Franklin's
 Gull, Bonaparte's
 4 Gull, Little
 4 Kittiwake, Black-legged
 1, 3 Tern, Gull-billed
 Tern, Forster's
 1 Tern, Common
 3, 4 Tern, Sooty
 1 Tern, Least
 1, 3 Tern, Royal
 1, 3 Tern, Sandwich
 3 Tern, Caspian
 Tern, Black
 3, 4 Tern, Noddy
 1, 3 Skimmer, Black
 1 Dove, Rock
 4 Dove, White-winged
 1 Dove, Mourning
 Dove, Ground
 1 Cuckoo, Yellow-billed
 Cuckoo, Black-billed
 4 Ani, Groove-billed
 1 Owl, Barn
 1 Owl, Screech
 1 Owl, Great Horned
 4 Owl, Snowy
 4 Owl, Burrowing
 1 Owl, Barred
 Owl, Long-eared
 Owl, Short-eared
 4 Owl, Saw-whet
 1 Chuck-will's-widow
 Whip-poor-will
 1 Nighthawk, Common
 1 Swift, Chimney
 1 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated
 1 Kingfisher, Belted
 1 Flicker, Common
 1 Woodpecker, Pileated
 1 Woodpecker, Red-bellied
 1 Woodpecker, Red-headed

Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied
 1 Woodpecker, Hairy
 1 Woodpecker, Downy
 1 Woodpecker, Red-cockaded
 1 Kingbird, Eastern
 3, 4 Kingbird, Gray
 4 Kingbird, Western
 4 Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed
 1 Flycatcher, Great Crested
 1 Phoebe, Eastern
 4 Phoebe, Say's
 Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied
 Flycatcher, Acadian
 Flycatcher, Alder
 Flycatcher, Least
 1 Pewee, Eastern Wood
 4 Pewee, Western Wood
 4 Flycatcher, Olive-sided
 4 Flycatcher, Vermilion
 1 Lark, Horned
 Swallow, Tree
 Swallow, Bank
 1 Swallow, Rough-winged
 1 Swallow, Barn
 2 Swallow, Cliff
 1 Martin, Purple
 1 Jay, Blue
 1 Crow, Common
 2 Crow, Fish
 1 Chickadee, Carolina
 1 Titmouse, Tufted
 2 Nuthatch, White-breasted
 Nuthatch, Red-breasted
 1 Nuthatch, Brown-headed
 Creeper, Brown
 Wren, House
 Wren, Winter
 1 Wren, Bewick's
 1 Wren, Carolina
 1, 3 Wren, Long-billed Marsh
 Wren, Short-billed Marsh
 1 Mockingbird
 1 Catbird, Gray
 1 Thrasher, Brown
 1 Robin
 1 Thrush, Wood
 Thrush, Hermit

Thrush, Swainson's
 Thrush, Gray-cheeked
 Veery
 1 Bluebird, Eastern
 1 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
 Kinglet, Golden-crowned
 Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
 Pipit, Water
 4 Pipit, Sprague's
 Waxwing, Cedar
 1 Shrike, Loggerhead
 1 Starling
 1 Vireo, White-eyed
 4 Vireo, Bell's
 Vireo, Yellow-throated
 Vireo, Solitary
 1 Vireo, Red-eyed
 Vireo, Philadelphia
 1 Vireo, Warbling
 1 Warbler, Black and White
 1 Warbler, Prothonotary
 1 Warbler, Swainson's
 1 Warbler, Worm-eating
 Warbler, Golden-winged
 Warbler, Blue-winged
 4 Warbler, Bachman's
 Warbler, Tennessee
 Warbler, Orange-crowned
 Warbler, Nashville
 1 Northern Parula
 Warbler, Yellow
 Warbler, Magnolia
 Warbler, Cape May
 4 Warbler, Black-throated Blue
 Warbler, Yellow-rumped
 4 Warbler, Townsend's
 Warbler, Black-throated Green
 Warbler, Cerulean
 Warbler, Blackburnian
 2 Warbler, Yellow-throated
 Warbler, Chestnut-sided
 Warbler, Bay-breasted
 Warbler, Blackpoll
 1 Warbler, Pine
 1 Warbler, Prairie
 Warbler, Palm
 2 Ovenbird
 Waterthrush, Northern
 1 Waterthrush, Louisiana
 1 Warbler, Kentucky
 Warbler, Mourning

BIRD OBSERVATIONS, MONTICELLO, MISSISSIPPI AREA

1975

March

13. Feeding grackles scattered over rain drenched rye grass pasture. With them, but keeping close together, was a flock of 15 - 20 female Red-Wings. No male Red-Wings seen.
15. Several isolated male Red-Wings in trees near cat tail lined banks at Lake Mary Crawford. No 'singing'. Tem. in 50s with 10 - 12 mph breeze from north.
25. Male Red-Wings singing on territory at Lake MC. No females seen. Small accipiter flying N. over Lake MC. Believed to be sharp shin.
22. Eight Cedar Wax Wings, Monticello. Last ones seen this spring.
29. Five Juncos feeding in yard, Monticello, after cold front.

April

2. First Chimney Swifts seen, Monticello.
11. First Indigo Bunting seen, Monticello.
13. Immediately after returning from the Dauphin Island field trip noted two Painted Buntings with several Indigos and a few Blue Grosbeaks feeding in back yard, Monticello.

May

2. Male Northern Oriole (Baltimore) has been collecting nest material for past several days. The first Balt. Oriole we have seen here apparently nest building. Orchard Orioles regularly nest here.

Have received a number of favorable comments on the plantings of Crimson Clover along Mississippi highway rights-of-way. A number of bird species including Orchard and Baltimore Orioles have been seen picking at the ripening seed heads in the small patches of Crimson Clover in the back yard.

Florence and Carl Bauer, PO Box 396, Monticello, Ms. 39654.

WHITE IBIS BREEDING RECORD

On May 25, 1975, Mr. St. Clair Thompson, and I visited a heron rookery in Big Black Swamp, West Carter Lake, in Section 14, Township 14 North, Range 4 East, Warren County. The location is on the west side of the River about 1 1/2 miles north of Fisher's Ferry Road between Utica and Vicksburg. The rookery location had been previously spotted during aerial reconnaissance by Mr. Thompson and who had visited the rookery once before with Mr. Hal Moore and they had spotted white ibis among the several thousand or more cattle egrets nesting with some anhingas and little blue herons.

The rookery was located in a cypress-button willow-water privet brake bordering an old river run. Big Black River was bankful and there was a slight flow through the brake where the birds were nesting. We gained access through private land by permission of the owner over a ridge road which was passable only with an all-terrain vehicle. We put in a boat and immediately saw thousands of cattle egrets nesting mostly in button willows and water privet. One water privet contained 24 nests. All cattle egret nests examined contained from one to five eggs. A few little blue heron adults were seen among the cattle egrets and six or eight white ibis (the males with bright carmine red legs, face and beak) were noted. We observed about two dozen anhingas and watched three females fly to their nests and begin incubating. A flock of about 20 white ibis flew in and alighted in another part of the rookery we did not examine closely.

In an effort to determine if the white ibis were nesting we returned in the boat and watched the six or eight birds perched in cypress trees for about ten minutes. Two females were seen to return to nests and assume incubation posture. One male returned to a nest beside a female and assumed a defensive posture driving off cattle egrets that came nearby. We made our way to the small cypress trees where the two female ibises were incubating. The first nest examined was a platform of sticks and dried leaves lined with green leaves and about 7 ft. above the water surface in a young cypress. The first nest contained a single egg, greenish white spotted with brown. Upon examination of the other nest site we found two nests constructed the same as the first and side by side in a young cypress tree at about the same height and containing three and two similarly brown-spotted eggs. This is the first known record of the white ibis nesting in Mississippi.

W. H. Turcotte
