

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955

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MR. W. H. TURCOTTE RETIRING AS EDITOR

The MOS must accept with regret the resignation of Mr. W. H. Turcotte as editor of the MOS Newsletter and the Mississippi Kite. Mr. Turcotte has edited the Newsletter since the formation of the MOS in April of 1955, twenty years ago, and has edited the Mississippi Kite since 1965 when it was first published. He finds he will be unable to continue to do so.

SPRING MEETING PLANS

The 21st annual spring meeting will again be held on Dauphin Island. The dates are April 2 - 4, 1976.

Friday, April 2: 8:00 P.M. Annual business meeting at the Marine Resources Laboratory Library. (just north of Shell Mounds Park). New officers will be elected. Steve Peterson will be in charge of the program.

Saturday, April 3: All day field trip, details to be announced. On your own for lunch - continue field trip in P.M. Saturday night, dutch supper at the Auditorium just like the one last year

Sunday, April 4: On your own

Hotel Information: Holiday Inn of Dauphin Island, Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528 is reserving a group of 14 rooms until 4 P.M. April 2. Rates will be approximately \$19.00 for a double room, \$16.00 for a single.

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Clip here and mail

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. G. E. Alexander, Jr.  
1749 W. Azalea Drive  
Greenville, Mississippi 38701

I plan to attend the supper and regular meeting and field trip April 2 - 3, 1976. There will be a total of \_\_\_\_\_ persons in my party for the supper April 3.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY EDITOR

Because of Mr. Turcotte's illness, the information in this issue must be confined to what the emergency editor, Mrs. Ruth E. Downey can glean. It will therefore be very skimpy.

### ANNUAL FALL MEETING

The annual fall meeting of the Mississippi Ornithological Society was held December 5, 1975 in the Greenville Public Library following a delicious dinner for members in the home of Mrs. Alexander's mother, Mrs. Virginia Ford. Mr. Ed. Alexander, president, presided.

Mr. Carl Bauer commended the outstanding quality of the MOS Newsletter. He also moved that the MOS extend a formal vote of thanks to Mrs. Ford for her hospitality in entertaining the members at dinner, a motion that was enthusiastically carried.

Dr. Jackson announced that he had a student at the heronry studying the relation between the little blue heron and the cattle egret.

Mr. Ed. Alexander announced that the spring meeting would again be at Dauphin Island, with the plans similar to last year's. He will get in touch with the president of the Mobile Bird Club again.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffee gave a talk illustrated with slides and tape recordings of the country of Nepal and its birds. 563 species of birds have been recorded in Nepal.

Intermittent downpours the morning of December 6 somewhat hampered but did not dampen the spirits of those members who met at the Yazoo Wildlife Refuge for birding. Everyone gathered at noon in the lodge of the Leroy Percy State Park for a delicious fried chicken dinner. After dinner a count of the birds sighted was held. 84 different species were reported, including the very obliging male vermilion flycatcher and a flock of 25 wild turkeys.

### NEWS FROM SOME OF THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

#### JACKSON COUNTY BIRD COUNT

133 species were observed the day of the Christmas bird count, January 3. 17 people participated. Unusual species reported were 1 Wilson's phalarope, 3 peregrine falcons, 2 common nighthawks, 2 black and white warblers, 1 white ibis, 3 bald eagles, 3 Le Conte's sparrows. Unusual birds seen during the week of the count were 1 brown pelican, 1 white pelican, 7 ibis (Plegadis - either glossy or white-faced), 1 green heron, 1 cattle egret. Dr. Larry Gates of Hattiesburg organized the participants and tabulated the count, as he did for the Hattiesburg count also. On the drive back to Jackson from the count Mr. Warren Garrott reported seeing a rough-legged hawk near Hattiesburg.

#### HATTIESBURG BIRD COUNT

86 species were observed. The most unusual species reported, one never reported before, was a rufous hummingbird seen by Dr. Larry Gates, who has obtained pictures of this bird, which has spent the winter in Hattiesburg. Other unusual species spotted on the count were 2 eared grebes and 1 spotted sandpiper. On December 14 Dr. Gates had a hellow-breasted chat in his back yard. He also reports an unusual number of wintering white-eyed vireos. Father Izral in Wiggins says he has never seen so many white-eyed vireos as have wintered there this year.

### JACKSON BIRD COUNT

91 species were reported by 14 observers under the leadership of Mr. W. H. Turcotte. 12 evening grosbeaks were seen by Mr. W. H. Turcotte near Gluckstat. There was 1 black and white warbler, 13 common yellowthroats, 21 orange-crowned warblers, 75 snow geese, 18 barred owls, 588 bluejays, 169 golden-crowned kinglets and 304 ruby-crowned kinglets. Unusual birds seen this winter were a white pelican spotted by Miss Christine Berry, Mrs. Frances Wills and Miss Evelyn Tackett December 15 off Pelican Point at the Ross Barnett Reservoir. A male summer tanager in winter plumage (olive-brown back and wings, bright rusty tail, rum and crissum and pale rusty breast) was seen and identified by Mr. Turcotte and Mr. Gandy on Laurel Street, Jackson shortly after Christmas and has been seen off and on in the neighborhood since. A female summer tanager was reported on New Year's Day in the same neighborhood. An albino gadwall was observed by Mrs. Frances Wills off the pipeline road at the Ross Barnett reservoir. It was with two other gadwalls. The same group was observed two weeks later, February 7 by Mrs. Ruth Downey and again February 14 by Miss Christine Berry, Mrs. Frances Wills, Miss Evelyn Tackett and Mrs. Ruth Daowney in the same locality. A flock of eight evening grosbeaks (4 males and 4 females) has spent the morning from February 19 through February 22 at the feeder of Ms. Liz Smith, 1401 Springdale. Miss Christine Berry, 3918 N. State St. has had a wintering female Baltimore oriole at her suet feeder this winter. Mrs. Frances Wills observed 2 purple martins at the Main Harbor Marina on February 22. Steve Peterson sighted a great horned owl north of Vicksburg December 6 on the way home from the MOS meeting.

### GREENVILLE BIRD COUNT

90 species were observed. January 4, the day of the Greenville bird count was cold, 24 degrees at 7 A.M., with winds out of the north at 10-15 mph. Unusual species observed were a flock of 27 white-fronted geese spotted by Steve Peterson and Jim Williams and a second vermillion flycatcher spotted two miles south of the one spotted earlier in the year on Lake Jackson and which has remained in approximately the same spot all winter. 2500 green-winged teal were also seen.

### UNUSUAL BIRD FEEDERS

Mr. Davis of Kosciusko has invented an almost squirrel-proof pecan feeder for chickadees and titmice. He cuts the pecan in half, places it in a spring-type clothespin and suspends the clothespin from a coathanger. Only one squirrel genius has outwitted him.

Mr. and Mrs. Reber Layton have attracted a number of goldfinches with a Droll Yankee thistle seed feeder.

It has been suggested that many MOS members would like to give Mr. Turcotte some gift in appreciation of his devoted and unselfish service to the MOS as editor of the MOS Newsletter and the Mississippi Kite throughout the past twenty years. If anyone would like to do so, please mail checks to Mr. B. E. Gandy, 111 N. Jefferson St., Jackson, 39202, marking them "Turcotte Fund." Please mail checks before March 15.