

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955



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MOS NEWSLETTER

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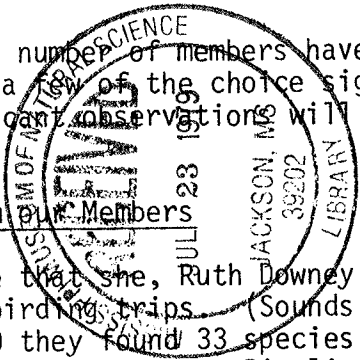
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Since the last MOS Newsletter, a number of members have written to tell of their recent bird-findings. Perhaps a few of the choice sightings will entice you to go look for yourself! All significant observations will be published with details in the Mississippi Kite.

News from Our Members

Christine Berry wrote to tell me that she, Ruth Downey, Frances Wills, and Evelyn Tackett have weekly Saturday birding trips. (Sounds like great fun!). During 4 hours of birding on Sept. 30 they found 33 species including 3 Solitary Sandpipers along the Natchez Trace and an Osprey on Pipeline Road at the eastern edge of the duck refuge near Jackson. They found an Osprey at about the same place again on 7 October as well as several species of early arriving ducks (Wigeon, Shoveller, Mallard, Wood, Ring-necked). They recorded 40 species in 6 hours on that trip.

Steve Peterson has been conversing with the Barred Owls again. (It's good to find a birder who gives a hoot!). On the weekend of Aug. 1, Steve started hooting along the Pascagoula River and set up a territorial dispute that he says may have lasted all night. You might enjoy some of his description of the incident: "The owl changed his hooting from the usual call to 'hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-aah', which after a fair amount of owl watching, I'm convinced is a challenge to intruders. I followed suit and we spent nearly an hour 'arguing' territorial ownership. Then his mate showed up and they greeted each other in a duet of the above call and 'laughing.' An owl laughs merely by opening its beak while hooting. The owls spent 20 minutes greeting each other, dying down, then starting up, occasionally screaming. Then both began to challenge hoot, going in and out of synchronization, like demented metronomes, with my answers blending in, and boats stopping on the river to listen."



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Nona Herbert has written two or three times - always with a good list from Archer Island. She reported about 15 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks feeding on sugarberry on September 23 and 18 Broad-winged Hawks moving through on September 24.

Larry Gates reported a Western Wood Pewee that he and Judy Toups, and Wayne Weber found on September 30 at Bellefontaine Point on the Mississippi coast. Larry also sent in a number of good fall records from Hattiesburg. Hopefully, some of those good birds will be there for our fall meeting!

Carl Bauer reports a possible Rufous Hummingbird that appeared at his feeder in Monticello on August 27 and 28. He described his observations as follows: "Sunday, 27 August a probable immature male Rufous took charge of the feeder and when not feeding or chasing the Rubys, perched close by. Monday, 28 August, the bird appeared lethargic and sat with fluffed feathers and did not chase the freely feeding Rubys. Tuesday, 29 August, the bird did not show." Rufous Hummingbirds are a western species that has occasionally shown up along the Gulf coast. The sighting at Monticello is a most unusual record. Unfortunately poor light prevented Carl from photographing the bird to document the record.

Dwight Cooley, Bette Schardien, and I spent October 13-16 camping and birding on Horn Island while doing some research for the National Park Service. Aside from sunburns and sore backs (we carried all of our food, water, etc.), we also got a good list of birds. Highlights of our adventure were some Sooty Terns and a Burrowing Owl - both of which I was able to photograph.

Burt Webster called to report a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Starkville that was on his way south on September 21, and E.W. Permenter saw some southbound Scarlet Tanagers at Noxubee Refuge on 14 September.

Alex Boldog reported a large migration of Turkey Vultures passing through Lexington on September 10. He sent along a photograph showing perhaps 200 birds circling overhead. He thought that about 20% of the birds were Black Vultures.

L.O.S. Fall Meeting

The annual fall meeting of the Louisiana Ornithological Society will be held on the weekend of 27-28 October in Cameron. There will be an informal "get-together" Friday evening in the Calcasieu-Marine Bank in Cameron at 8 PM. Their regular meeting will be at Fred's Restaurant in Cameron at 7:30 PM. At the Saturday night meeting, Dr. Larry O'Meallie will present a slide program on the Chandeleur Islands.

M.O.S. Fall Meeting

The next page details what's in store for us at our own annual fall meeting. I hope to see you there. Several members have expressed an interest in learning more about bird-banding, so I am planning to bring along some traps and mist nets and hope to do some banding near Hattiesburg.

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FALL MEETING: Saturday and Sunday, November 11 and 12, 1978; Hattiesburg, Ms.

BANQUET: 7:00 p.m. Saturday, November 11, 1978. Room A, University Commons, Univ. of Southern Mississippi. Guest Speaker: Tom Imhof, author of Alabama Birds. (The commons is between the library and the post office.) Price per person: \$5.00.

Local Motels:

Southern Motel - on Rte. 49 close to the university. 582-3306
Holiday Inn - on Rte. 49. 582-9181
Days Inn - Rte. 49. 1-800-241-7111
There are many other motels on Highway 49 and on Rte. 11.

Field Trips:

7:00 a.m. Saturday
7:00 a.m. Sunday

We will divide up into reasonable-sized groups and visit the Hattiesburg Sewage Lagoons (where eared grebes and other waterfowl should be present) as well as some of the hardwood forest near the Leaf River (where we may find some late fall migrants and some early winter birds.)

Meet for the field trips at the main entrance to the University of Southern Mississippi on Hardy Street (near the flagpoles). This is at the first stoplight west of the Highway 49 intersection.

Reservations for the Banquet - must be made by mail in advance along with a check to cover the number of people in your party. (\$5 each)

Tear off and Mail to Larry Gates, 2911 Mamie, Hattiesburg, MS 39401

I intend to attend the MOS banquet in Hattiesburg on November 11, 1978. Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ person/people.

I prefer the Saturday/Sunday field trip. _____.

signature

Deadline: November 3