

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ORGANIZED APRIL 30, 1955

LARRY GATES  
President  
Route 9, Box 317B  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

G. EDWARD ALEXANDER  
Treasurer  
930 S. Washington  
Greenville, MS 38701

BETTE SCHARDIEN  
Vice President  
Natural Science Division  
Itawamba Junior College  
Fulton, MS 38843

JEROME A. JACKSON  
Editor: Mississippi Kite  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Mississippi State University  
Mississippi State, MS 39762

JULIA BROYLES  
Secretary  
Route 1, Box 191  
Starkville, MS 39759

JUDITH TOUPS  
2nd Vice President (Newsletter)  
4 Hartford Place  
Gulfport, MS 39501

---

MOS NEWSLETTER

August, 1983

Volume 28, No. 2

---

MOS Fall Meeting: A reminder in advance of the official meeting notice to be published later. MOS will meet on October 28, 29, 30, 1983 at Tishomingo State Park in the northeast corner of Mississippi (Tupelo is the nearest city of size). The park is one of the state's most beautiful and fall foliage should be great. Heated group cabins will be \$4.75 per person per day; meals \$3.50 per meal, beginning with evening meal on Friday and through noon meal on Sunday. More details later!

---

MINUTES OF THE SPRING MEETING OF THE MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The 1983 Spring meeting of the Mississippi Ornithological Society was held in Jackson on May 7, 1983. The meeting was called to order by President Larry Gates.

Larry expressed appreciation to the Jackson members responsible for making necessary arrangements for a successful meeting and good birding. Also thanks to Nona Herbert for her persistence of the promotion of the MOS arm patches.

The minutes of the fall meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Ed Alexander gave the following financial report: Cash on hand at Greenville, \$953.18, Merchant and Farmers Bank at Starkville, \$280.12, and a \$2000.00 CD at 13.7% interest which matures May 12, 1984, at Hattiesburg.

Minutes of MOS Spring meeting (cont'd)

Requests were made for any old MOS records. If any past officers have any records please forward them to the president.

Plans for the fall meeting are underway for the last week end in October at Tishomingo State Park. At that time the board will decide where the next meeting will be held.

It was decided by the board to have 2,000 copies of the current check list printed and to revise the list some time in the future.

The MOS arm patches are finally ready. They are \$5.00 each to members.

Election of new officers will be held in the fall of '84 and every two years thereafter.

Minimum orders by mail for checklists will be \$1.50. That is 10 copies for \$1.00 and \$.50 for postage and handling.

The president appointed a committee of former recipients of the Tucker Award to decide if the award should be given. He also asked that an article be printed in the MISSISSIPPI KITE on the history of the Tucker Award.

It was brought to our attention that the constitution does not provide for the election of a newsletter editor, but that the president could appoint as many Vice-presidents as necessary. Vice-presidents are members of the board. Judith Toups was appointed 2nd Vice-president in charge of newsletters.

It was moved and seconded that a resolution be adopted and entered into the official records: That the Mississippi Ornithological Society does not discriminate with regard to race, color, creed, or national origin. The resolution passed.

The bird count was tallied; 107 species were recorded.

A program on Barred Owls was presented by Steve Peterson.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julia Broyles, Secretary

---

Membership: As of July 31, 1983, MOS membership was over 150, including 40 Life Members. Treasurer Ed Alexander and Jan Dubuisson have done a great job in updating the membership list!

Dr. William E. Godfrey II, of Natchez, whose wife Irene passed away earlier this year, has given MOS a Life Membership in memory of Irene, who was an active Mississippi birder. Those of us who had the pleasure to know Irene and to bird with her, knew her to be a most enthusiastic and joyful participant in outdoor activities. We miss her.

Welcome to the Vicksbirders! A new birding organization is on the Mississippi scene, and as one might assume, the Vicksbirders hail from the area around Vicksburg. MOS' long-time member Hal Moore is its first President, Newsletter Editor is Marion Bragg, 1799 Freetown Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180. According to the most recent newsletter, named The Vicksbirder, this group is going with evening meetings and field trips, and after their July meeting eight people who were there as guests signed up to become Vicksbirders! We wish this group much success, and hope that its members will support our own state organization by signing up themselves to become members of the Mississippi Ornithological Society!

---

Wayne Weber extends an invitation: AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION CONVENTION  
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, JULY 1984

On behalf of the American Birding Association, I'd like to invite MOS members to attend the biennial ABA convention, to be held in Vancouver, B. C., Canada, in July 1984. (Exact dates have not been decided yet.)

The ABA convention will feature local field trips for forest birds and shorebirds, and probably pre and post convention tours to several areas of western Canada and Alaska. Pelagic birdwatching trips in both Washington state and British Columbia will be scheduled before and after the convention, and visits to coastal seabird colonies may be possible.

Some of the North Pacific pelagic species to be expected include Fork-tailed and Leach's Storm-petrels, Black-footed Albatross, Sooty and Pink-footed shearwater, Rhinoceros and Cassin's auklet, and Tufted Puffin.

I will be a member of the local arrangements committee, and expect to be involved in local field trips. I appreciate the help given me by many MOS members in finding birds when I was in Mississippi, and hope I can help some of you find birds in Canada. If some of you have never visited British Columbia or the Pacific Northwest, this may be your best opportunity to add some new birds to your life list.

For more detailed information on the ABA convention, please write after February 1, 1984, to the American Birding Association, P.O. Box 4335, Austin, Texas 78765; or to me at 303-9153 Saturno Drive, Burnaby, B. C., Canada V3J 7K1.

Wayne C. Weber

---

Editor's note: Wayne's old friends in the Mississippi Ornithological Society will be pleased to know that in this summer of 1983 he completed his dissertation: A COMPARISON OF MAINLAND AND ISLAND PINE-FOREST BIRD COMMUNITIES IN COASTAL MISSISSIPPI, and successfully took his oral at Mississippi State University in August. Come January, Wayne will be "officially" Wayne C. Weber, PhD. Congratulations, Wayne!

Reber Layton, Jackson Audubon Society's "Mr. Bluebird" received the 1983 Governor's Award from the Mississippi Wildlife Federation for his many years of time and effort in establishing Bluebird Trails in Mississippi. Congratulations, Reber! (And many thanks, as well!)

---

Nona Herbert shares: J. C. and I took off for South Dakota on May 17 for a visit with an old friend, Jim Johnson of Huron. He was the editor of the flycatcher section for the South Dakota bird book, President of the South Dakota Ornithologist's Union, wrote a column for a Huron paper for many years.

Jim and his wife had created the most wonderful outdoor yard habitat for birds. They keep a bird bath (home made), big and shallow, full and keep a heater in it for the winter; big tray of bird seed at the picture window. They hate to leave during migration because they see all kinds of birds in their back yard, and they keep a log of all the birds they see right there... really an impressive list. Everyone of the birding world of note, from Peterson on down, has been to their house!

They knew where Chestnut-collared Longspurs were so we went to see them. Pheasants were everywhere. The meeting was at Pierre, the birding capitol, and we birded on the way. It was their Spring; ours was over...wild flowers, redbud, crabapple, tulips, etc., and every roadside ditch was full of all kinds of shorebirds and ducks (remember how excited Ed Alexander and I were when we saw Wilson's Phalarope?..they were a dime a dozen there!) Yellow-headed Blackbirds very numerous (I used to see them on Archer Island during migration but so much habitat has been destroyed, holes drained, trees clear-cut).

The S.D.O.U. meeting was May 20-22nd; I had been to the Arkansas Audubon Society meeting earlier in the Ozarks at Jasper. That meeting drew about 175 members, the Dakota meeting had about 100 (wonder why we have such low attendance?) The program that night was given by an excellent photographer who shared slides of the different birds that came to his yard...quite impressive!

On Saturday J.C. and I went with two of the best birders in the state and they really worked to show us the birds. We were in a group of about 23 on an 80 square mile ranch; we went way up in the mountains above the ranch to a plateau; saw Long-billed Curlew, Baird's Sparrow, also antelope, buffalo, mule deer, and coyote. Hillsides alive with Chipping Sparrows and goldfinches!

Near the ranch house the area was hills and draws. The draws had some sort of no-account thorny shrubs and willows...very poor, dry land...but everywhere you saw that little patch of brush there were the birds because they didn't have anyplace else to go.

On the way to Pierre was when we saw our first Lark Buntings. J. C. was driving and I saw this bird I knew I had never seen before. I started beating J. C., on the arm so he would stop. He didn't stop or even slack up speed. I saw another one and began beating J. C. again and this time I was yelling "Stop, stop!" He still didn't pay attention and I was about to get riled. About the time I was turning to J. C. to give him a good tongue lashing, an unmarked car belonging to the South Dakota highway patrol passed us; the patrol

Nona shares...cont'd

man gave us a real good look and he HAD to be wondering why I was beating my husband. Ha! The Lark Buntings were in migration and in huge flocks like Bobolinks...and the males were busy wearing themselves out doing the nuptial flight...fly way up and come down singing. We had to slow down to let flocks of them cross the road.

We went on later...to the Badlands, the Black Hills, Mount Rushmore. I had been promised a Dipper, so we went to Spearfish Canyon in the Badlands. After traveling behind a road grader along a narrow mountain road, we got to Dipper territory; we walked a ways down a winding, steep stairway made of rock to the foot of the waterfall. I had seen two carloads of kids and grownups heading in the same direction so I hurried past them before any Dipper could react to the commotion and leave. And there he was, out in the open, in the sun, in an area of gravel and rock out of the water. When I looked at him good I started shouting for J. C. and Jim to come on. We all got to see the Dipper in this beautiful area of waterfall and melting snow!

Later we saw White-throated Swifts, Black-billed Magpies, Mountain Bluebirds, Black-capped Chickadee, Rock Wren. And never saw so many chipmunks!

We went on to Yellowstone. Out on the prairie towards dark every night we saw deer and antelope. On the way we took a wrong turn and got off in an area that was teeming with ducks, Sandhill Cranes, White Pelicans, shorebirds. Here we saw birds displaying...flying up and then plummeting down with I strange call I had never heard. We could not figure out what they were...hundreds of them. The next day we learned that they were Common Snipe. When we see them in Mississippi they are skulking around ditch edges and freeze when you get close and never say a thing!

At Yellowstone Old Faithful and the other geysers were awesome. Violet-green Swallows were already nesting or building and were everywhere. They are just too beautiful!

Mesa, Arizona was our next stop; the cacti were in full bloom. Found some Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Cactus Wren, Roadrunner, and Abert's Towhee. I was satisfied with the birds we saw but I know I could see more if we got down to REALLY looking!

I', looking forward to Tishomingo this fall, and hope I'll see you there!

Editor's note: Thanks Nona!

---

This editor made her third trip to southeast Arizona this summer, with Mal Hodges (back from the Peace Corps in Ghana) and Evelyn Johnson. Swung home through the valley and the lower Texas coast. Birding was great and the newest hot spot in Arizona, Sycamore Canyon, demands more attention than we could give it. In 13 days our trip total was 215 species at a cost of \$282.00 per person!

---

NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT

M. O. S. FALL MEETING: October 28-30

Our fall meeting has been scheduled at Tishomingo State Park (northeast Mississippi) for the last weekend in October. What more beautiful place could we be at that time of the year?

Group cabins have been reserved and scrumptious home-cooked meals will be served in the dining hall. (Those of you who came to the Spring 1979 meeting can attest to the wonderful food.)

Meals:	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
	Breakfast	Breakfast
	Lunch	Lunch
	Dinner	

Total price: \$17.50

Group cabin (heated and comfortable)

Friday night  
Saturday night

Total price: \$9.50

Total for food and lodging:

\$27.00

If at all possible please stay in the group cabins and have your meals in the dining hall rather than making other arrangements.

Please send your check and reserve a space for this exciting weekend as soon as possible. Send to Terrie Gates, Rt. 9 Box 317-B, Hattiesburg, MS 39401. Call her at 601-268-6411 if you wish to make special arrangements, such as attending for only a portion of the weekend. If you insist on private lodging, call the park manager.

Late (even very late) arrival on Friday night is ok.

Numerous field trips will be arranged. We will see late fall migrants and early winter arrivals amidst spectacular autumn leaves.

The business meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. Saturday night in the dining hall. It will be followed by a program.

Speaker: Dr. David Pitts, University of Tennessee at Martin

Topic: Bluebird Ecology in the Mid-south

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

M. O. S. is composed of many different kinds of people with many different interests and talents; we have researchers, photographers, hikers, feeder watchers, painters, poets, competitive listers, teachers, students, sound-recording enthusiasts, gardeners, conservationists, museum specialists, writers, and all-around nature lovers. Our interest in birds is scientific and artistic, intellectual and emotional. Our strength is in our diversity. The greatest danger we have is for one group of people to think that they are the organization. Please join with me as I strive to achieve wholeness and balance. Please participate. Please let me know about areas we have been neglecting. All of us have much to gain from all the rest of us.

Larry Gates