

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ORGANIZED APRIL 30, 1955

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MOS NEWSLETTER

September, 1984

Volume 29, No. 3

MOS FALL MEETING: Tom and Rita Holden will host the fall meeting of the Mississippi Ornithological Society in Grenada, on Friday night and Saturday, November 2nd and 3rd.

A rundown of the weekend activities follows:

November 2nd: Tom and Rita will host a light supper in their home at 132 Holly Lane, Grenada, for Friday night arrivals. Rita urges casual dress for the occasion. A map to the Holden home is provided in this newsletter. Rita would like a little advance notice from those who will be at supper, so please fill in the enclosed form and mail it to Rita.

November 3rd: At 7a.m. on Saturday we will assemble in the parking lot of Best Western Motor Inn in Grenada for departure on field trips. We will return to the inn for lunch and field trips will continue afterwards.

Dinner, business meeting, and program starts at 7:00 P.M. at the Best Western Motor Inn. Business meeting will include election of officers for the next two years. Our own Dr. Jerry Jackson will provide a program on winter birds.

Fall meeting, (continued).

Rita advises that the menu will be your choice of beef tips and gravy or barbecued chicken and egg noodles, mashed potatoes, turnip greens, blackeyed peas, corn bread and rolls. Cost is \$7.00 per person, to be paid at the meal.

Best Western Motor Inn is suggested to those who will need motel rooms.. The motel is located in Grenada on Hwy 8, just a short distance from Hwy 55. Reservations may be made ahead by calling Best Western at either of the following numbers (601) 226 7816, 1-800-528-1234. Room rates are \$31.00 for single room with one person, \$33.00 for single room with two people, \$35.00 for double room for two people, \$39.00 for double room for three people, and \$43.00 for double room with four people. When making reservations, please mention the MOS meeting so that the group will be placed together as well as receiving the lower rates.

It will be sparrow and duck time at Grenada! See you there!

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\_\_\_\_\_ plan to attend the MOS fall meeting.

Please count on us for supper on Friday night and for the banquet on Saturday night.

Mail to Rita Holden, 132 Holly Lane, Grenada, MS 38901, or call Rita at (601) 226 6442.

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#### MINUTES OF THE SPRING MEETING OF THE MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The spring meeting was held on April 28, 1984, in Greenville. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by president Larry Gates.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved with one correction. Treasurer G. Edward Alexander reported a general fund balance of \$2,353.62. \$218.12 at Merchant and Farmers Bank in Starkville, a \$2000.00 Certificate of Deposit at 13.7%, and \$1,325.69 at Magnolia Savings and Loan.

A nominating committee for new officers to be presented at the fall meeting was appointed: Jerome A. Jackson, Louis Cashman, and Nona Herbert, Chairman.

Minutes of spring meeting, (continued).

The fall meeting which was tentatively scheduled for the Gulf coast was postponed for a year, the New Orleans World Exposition making rooms scarce and expensive this year. A meeting place for the fall meeting will be announced later.

Jerome Jackson announced that two issues of The Mississippi Kite will be out soon. New checklists are still not available.

Terrie Gates presented sample MOS T-shirts. Margaret Copeland moved that we order approximately one hundred T-shirts, light blue with dark blue or black print front and back with hemmed bottoms. Jerome Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

President Gates announced that the Tucker Award would be awarded next meeting. He also asked Jerome Jackson to see if the MSU Library would store MOS records.

Jerome Jackson asked that nest record cards be turned in to him.

The business meeting was adjourned.

Edward Alexander introduced the speaker, Dan Guravich, who showed beautiful slides and gave an informative program on polar bears.

One hundred and twenty-two species of birds were tabulated after the field trips.

Respectfully submitted

Julia Broyles, Secretary

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From the Editor: Thought you birders out there might have a little fun with a brain--teaser which I posed to my readers not long ago. Some of them scored better than 85%, and I know there's a 95 percenter out there! Put on your thinking caps, read the following carefully, and make your list. I will have a master list at the meeting for those who have a burning desire to know how close you came. Some of the following is lifted from Birding, which appears weekly in The Sun/The Daily Herald, Biloxi, Mississippi.

"The great birding adventure of 1984 is over. I traveled 7,000 miles in 22 days, July 13-August 3.. Destination was the American Birding ASSociation Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia.

My personal list for the trip was 320 species. That was a challenge but not the ultimate one. A bigger challenge might be for readers to reconstruct a list of those 320 species from the information which follows.

For this vicarious birding trip there is no need for binoculars and (thank heavens) no need for any frantic searching for the campground privy by the light of the silvery moon!

One needs only an up to date field guide to the birds of North America and an atlas detailed enough to show, for example, Santiam PaSS IN Oregon or the Huachuca Mountains in Arizona...a Rand-McNally road atlas will do nicely.

Other requirements are curiosity, patience, deductive capabilities, and interest in the seasonal and geographic distribution of birds, and the habitat preferences of each, all of which may be learned by a little sleuthing in a field guide.

The following information reveals how my list grew from state to state...Louisiana 40, Texas 29, New Mexico 2, Colorado 62, Utah 29, Idaho 1, Oregon 19, Washington 30, British Columbia 34, California 48, and Arizona 26. (For clarification, although we recorded 124 species in two days in CALifornia, only 48 of them were new for the trip.)

As a further aid, the accompanying list shows how many species within each family or group of birds are on the list. Naturally a great deal of birding was done from a moving car and along roadsides, and we tallied more birds in states where we actually spent time out of an automobile.

Give Louisiana moving-car birding plus about 20 minutes at Butte-LaRose in the Atchafalaya Basin. Texas gets moving-car birding plus a few common species as we stopped for the night. New Mexico was moving-car birding only. Colorado got its share of moving-car birding but also roadside birding and a campout at 6000 feet, and an additional four hours along streamside trails, plus a brief stop at the 10,000 feet elevation.

Utah get roadside and moving-car birding along US 40 into Salt Lake City. Thereafter it was a delayed stop along the perimeters of Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge where the birding was excellent.

Interstate 80 through Idaho was moving-car only. Northeast Oregon gets roadside birding with a night's camping at about 3,500 feet in Oregon's Blue Mountains. Washington saw a few roadside stops and a campout at night close to Puget sound.

Vancouver for the convention; buses were crowded and birders outnumbered birds, but we managed to get some of the specialties by hitting the high points above Vancouver and making a ferry trip to Victoria Island. One can expect some mountain species plus a smattering of shorebirds, seabirds, ducks, and alcids.

Back to Washington for a day on the wild Pacific coast, and another going up up up to Mount Ranier. The Oregon coast was windy, cold, and not terrifically productive. We headed inland through

Santiam Pass in the Cascades in a final effort for one duck, one woodpecker, one flycatcher, and one warbler, all of which cooperated to make Santiam Pass memorable.

On to Upper Klamath, a refuge in southern Oregon, stopping at random for roadside birding. In California it was a wonderful three hours at Lower Klamath and Tule Lake in the northern part of the state. A day-long pelagic birding trip out of Monterey added beef to the life-list, as did a trip to the arid hills south of San Francisco, Mount Pinos in southern California, and the Salton Sea in desert country.

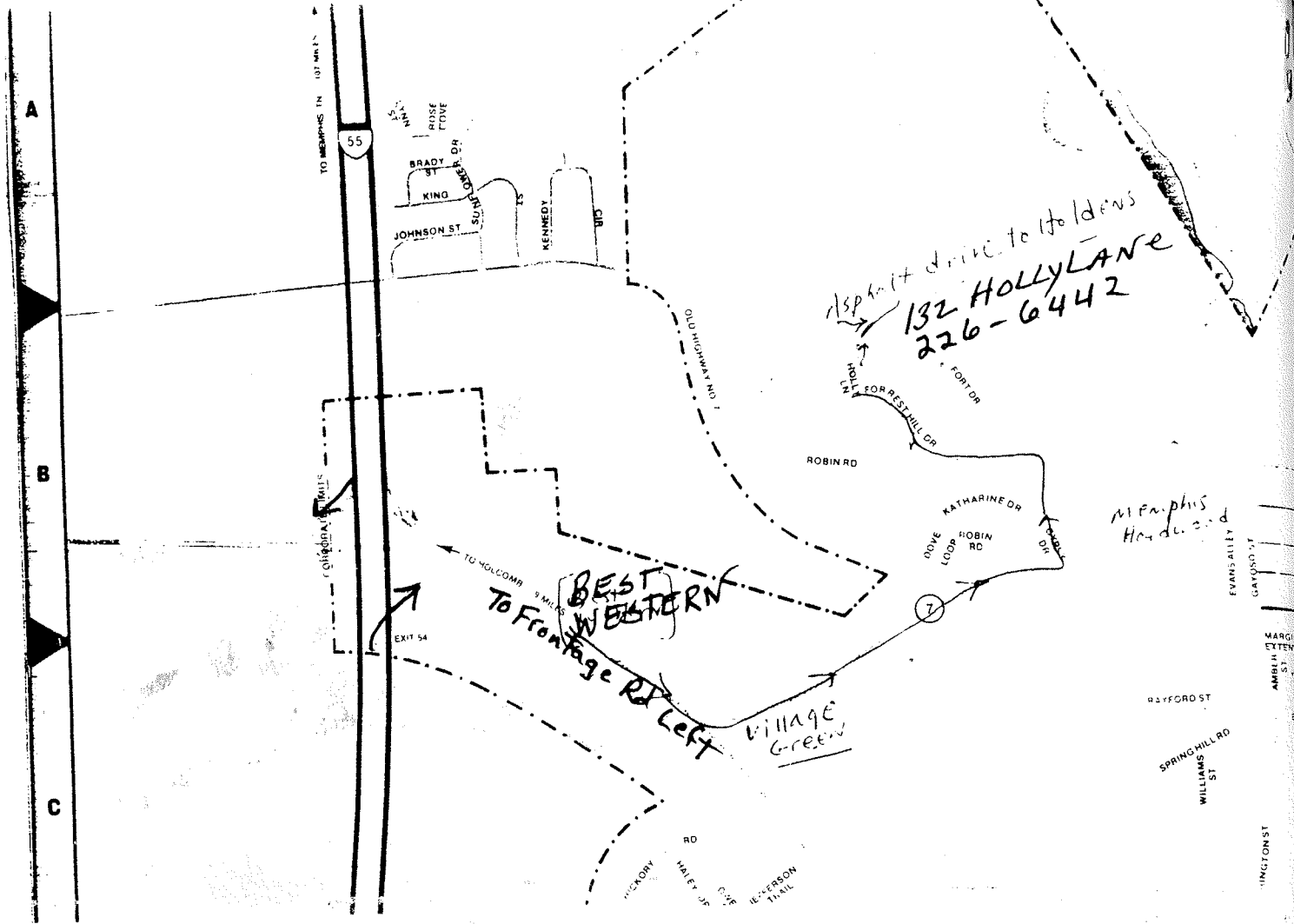
Arizona was visited too briefly, camping at Mt. Lemmon with little daylight left, and a day spent searching for an elusive flycatcher in the shadows of the Huachuca Mountains.

Here's the list broken up into families or groups.

Loons-1	Woodpeckers-14
Grebes-3	Tyrant flycatchers-18
Albatrosses-1	Larks-2
Fulmars-1	Swallows-8
Shearwaters-2	Jays-5
Pelicans-2	Other corvids-8
Cormorants-3	Chickadees and other parids--8
Anhinga-1	Nuthatches-3
Hérons-10	Creepers-1
Ibises-2	Wrens-8
Geese, ducks-19	Dippers-1
Vultures-3	Kinglets-2
Diurnal raptors-15	Gnatcatchers-1
Grouse, ptarmigans, etc.-4	Thrushes-9
Coots, gallinules-2	Wrentits-1
Plovers-3	Mimic Thrushes-4
Other shorebirds-23	Pipits-1
Jaegers, skuas-2	Waxwings-1
Gulls-10	Silky Flycatchers-1
Terns-7	Shrikes-1
Alcids-7	Starlings-2
Pigeons, doves-4	Vireos-5
Cuckoos, anis-2	Warblers-14
Owls-4	Tanagers-2
Nightjars-5	Grosbeaks, buntings, sparrows-24
Swifts-4	Blackbirds, orioles-12
Hummingbirds-8	Weavers-1
Kingfishers-1	Finches-11

How many of my 320 species can you name? They need not be separated by states or by the order in which they were tallied.

Have fun!



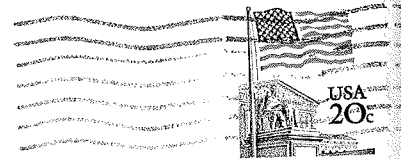
Asphalt drive to holders  
 132 HOLLY LANE  
 226-6442

**BEST WESTERN**

To Frontage Rd Left

Village Green

Jerome Jackson  
 MOS  
 Box Z  
 Ms. State, MS 39762



First Class

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Turcotte (2)  
 240 Lowe Circle (1L)  
 Richland, MS 39218