

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ORGANIZED APRIL 30, 1955

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MOS NEWSLETTER

March, 1985

Volume 30, No. 1

MOS SPRING MEETING: We are delighted to announce that the spring meeting will be held in Vicksburg, with Hal Moore and The Vicksburg birders as hosts, on Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5, 1985.

Our hosts are offering five separate field trips and each one sounds exciting. All trips will depart from the Military Park parking lot at 7:00 A.M. on both Saturday and Sunday.

Trip One: CLEAR CREEK-Cove hardwoods with lots of warblers, thrushes, vireos, tanagers, etc..

Trip Two: LOUISIANA LEVEE-Bobolinks, Dickcissels, Painted Buntings, Solitary Sandpipers, other shorebirds, plus waterfowl, etc.. No walking involved!

Trip Three: TENSAS REFUGE, LA.-Large bottomland-hardwood tract; warblers, woodpeckers, turkeys, thrushes, vireos, etc.

Trip Four: EAGLE LAKE-Trip down levee; shorebirds, waterfowl, egrets, herons, etc..

Trip Five: CAMPBELL SWAMP-Similar to Clear Creek habitat.

There will be guides both mornings to take birders to any of the above areas. In the afternoon, the Vicksburg Military Park is suggested (lots of hill hardwood habitat).

MOS Spring Meeting, (continued).

The Saturday night banquet and meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn (near Military Park) at 7:00 P.M.; banquet costs will be \$10.00. Those planning to attend should make reservations with Hal Moore well in advance of the meeting, (banquet reservation form is included in this newsletter).

At the time of this publication, banquet speaker had not been announced.

Ramada Inn, P. O. Box 1740, Vicksburg, MS 39180; (601) 638-5811, is offering MOS members a special rate of \$39.00 for a room, single or double occupancy. When making reservations, be sure to inform the reservations clerk of your MOS affiliation.

Hal also sent this list of other Vicksburg motels:

Holiday Inn (near Military Park)	\$39-\$46	Tel. 636 4551
Rivertown Inn (downtown)	\$22	638 4111
Best Western (off I-20)	\$40-\$45	636 5145
Comfort Inn (off I-20)	\$30-\$35	634 8067
Esquire Inn (off I-20 at bridge)	\$25-\$28	638-5750

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUMMARIES

Editor's Note: It's been very lean pickings from which to write a CBC Summary. CBC Compilers please note that a copy, or a summary, of your CBC results should be sent to the MOS Newsletter Editor as soon as convenient after the count period. Thanks to all compilers who did so this year!

MOON LAKE (LULA), MS.: 27 December 1984, 0645 to 1600 hours. Mostly cloudy, temp. 60°-73°, wind S, 5-10 mph; 4 observers in 1-2 parties: 14 party hours (7 on foot, 7 by car); 54 party miles (5 on foot, 49 by car). 62 species, 4717 individuals. Ben B. Coffey, compiler.

Only fifteen ducks seen on all of Moon Lake; most of the few ducks seen were on catfish ponds (1 site); geese and cormorants on the move. No Ruddy Ducks (often abundant on past counts). House Wren. Low Number, several smaller species not found.

HATTIESBURG, MS.: 100 species total. Black & White Warbler only rarity. Larry Gates, compiler.

GRENADA, MS: 19 December 1984, 0610 to 1700 hours. Mostly overcast with scattered showers a.m. and p.m.; temp. 58°-63°; wind calm to 5 mph, SW; lake moderately high. Eleven observers in 4-5 parties. Total party-hours, 37 (30 on foot, 7 by car)+0.5

CBC SUMMARIES, (continued).

owling; total party-miles, 175 (23 on foot, 152 by car), plus 3 owling. 89 species, about 13, 410 individuals. Marvin Davis, compiler.

High counts of Double-crested Cormorant (27), Ring-billed Gull (664), Horned Lark (60), Carolina Chickadee (161), Carolina Wren (86), Eastern Bluebird (165), Yellow-rumped Warbler (123). Species new to count include Redhead (3), Spotted Sandpiper (1), LITTLE GULL (1 imm). Other rarities: Short-eared Owl, Lapland Longspur.

SARDIS LAKE, MS: 15 December 1984, 0615 to 1730 hours. Partly cloudy a.m. to mostly cloudy p.m.; temp. 59°-72°, wind calm to 10 a.m. then 5-10 mph a.m., 10-20 mph SW p.m.; ponds full, lake moderately high, falling fast. Twelve observers in 4-5 parties. Total party-hours 42 (26 on foot, 16 by car); total party-miles, 160 (20 on foot, 140 by car). 85 species, about 5571 individuals. Marvin Davis, compiler.

Low counts of Mallard (52), Hooded Merganser (12), Killdeer (2), Field Sparrow (84), Eastern Meadowlark (42), Common Grackle (579). Species new to count include Forster's Tern (5), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (1), Palm Warbler (7).

In addition to his tidy summaries, Marvin Davis included the following remarks. "The weather (almost sweltering) was much in contrast with 1983. However it wasn't really favorable to bird-finding-the poor birds were in the bushes PANTING, I think!

"However, we came up with the usual sprinkling of quality species, plus pretty decent quantity. Warm weather in November and December seems to be reflected by the 1 gnatcatcher and 7 Palm Warblers at Sardis, plus the Spotted Sandpiper and excess of Yellow-rumped Warblers at Grenada. Also weather-related appears to be the deficiency of blackbirds (missing Brewer's and rusty on both counts), low counts of grackles and red-wings, and paucity of Purple Finches and siskins.

"On the other hand, the Forster's Terns are simply continuing a trend of the past 3-4 years, that may or may not be weather related. The LITTLE GULL repeats the past CBC occurrence at same spot last January 7 (different birds, both in 1st winter plumage). How about those Horned Larks! A lucky year on that front, with the Grenada flock including at least one Lapland Longspur calling! We've not had them for 8-9 years, perhaps by dint of insufficient effort.

SOUTHERN HANCOCK COUNTY, MS: 17 December 1984, temp. 69°-79°. Cloudy-party cloudy, heavy fog near coast. Wind 0-7 SSE. 21 observers, 141 species. Judith Foups, compiler.

Low counts of Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Sora, Hairy Woodpecker, Water Pipit. First count species, Swainson's Hawk, Golden Eagle, Tennessee Warbler, Blue Grosbeak. Exceptionally

CBC SUMMARIES, (continued).

high numbers of White Pelican (64), Ruddy Duck (2780), Red-tailed Hawk (60), Herring Gull (370), Caspian Tern (83), Common Tern (7), Pileated Woodpecker (19), Eastern Phoebe (48), Tree Swallow (13,903), House Wren (77), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (17), Hermit Thrush (54), Gray Catbird (32), Solitary Vireo (18), Unexpected species included Green-backed Heron, Northern Pintail, Swainson's Hawk, Golden Eagle, Tennessee Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, and Lark Sparrow.

Species wise, this was just a little better than average count. In terms of individual numbers, it more than doubled our previous individual count. Time spent owling by several parties produced a much higher than usual number of owls; 14 Screech Owl, 6 Great Horned Owl, and 11 Barred Owl.

The Pascagoula River Marsh seems to be the big draw for birders from up-state. Early in 1984 the Corps of Engineers constructed a third impoundment east of the existing ones. This third impoundment filled with water and burst in spring of 1984 and virtually destroyed the saltmarsh scrub of the surrounding area. We are pleased to note that the Corps is planning to revegetate the affected areas.

Meanwhile, the addition of the third impoundment has made the birding from the dikes better; for ease of walking and ease of viewing, the impoundment greatly enhances birdwatching opportunities at PRM. At this date in late March there are thousands of shorebirds present, a trend which should continue right through May. A birder wishing to study shorebirds should not pass up an opportunity to bird at PRM at the height of spring migration.

Here is a list of shorebirds, etc., which should be present throughout most or all of the migration period: Black-bellied & Lesser Golden plovers, Wilson's & Semipalmated plovers, Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, both yellowlegs species, Solitary Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Western, Least, Semipalmated and White-rumped Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, both dowitchers, Pectoral Sandpiper, plus possibles such as Marbled Godwit, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalarope.

Additionally many herons, gulls, terns, Ospreys, and (during fallout days) small passerines make PRM the single most productive birding spot on the coast.

As of this writing, an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull remains at its favorite beachfront setting, between Cowan Road and Highway 90 in Gulfport east to the Broadwater Marina in Biloxi; most often seen in front of Biloxi Beach Motor Inn and Edgewater Plaza Mall in Biloxi.

Addenda to MOS Newsletter, Volume 30, No. 1

Minutes of the Fall Meeting of the Mississippi Ornithological Society

The 1984 fall meeting was held in Granada on November 3, 1984. The meeting was called to order by President Larry Gates. Tom and Rita Holden were thanked for their hospitality on Friday night.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Jan Dubuisson asked that we pay our 1985 dues. Dr. Jerry Jackson reported that the library at MSU would welcome the opportunity to store MOS files. Records were given to Jerry for storage at MSU. He also reported an issue of the Mississippi Kite had gone to the printers. MOS arm patches are still available at \$5.00 each.

Bill Turcotte announced work on the new check-list is underway. The Fish and Game Commission offered to set the type. In the meantime, Mississippi Coast Audubon Society has a new list which is a good substitute for twenty-cents each. Production of the MOS T-shirts have been delayed by the art work.

Nona Herbert, nominations chairman, presented a slate of officers: Bette Schardien Jackson, President, Hal Moore, Vice President, Jan Dubuisson, Secretary, G. Edward Alexander, Treasurer, Jerome A. Jackson, Editor, Mississippi Kite. Nona Herbert moved the slate be accepted, motion was seconded by Walter Davis. Motion passed. Judith Toups was appointed editor of the MOS Newsletter.

Jerry Jackson announced that the A.O.U. meeting will take place in Mississippi at Starkville, on August 18-21, 1986. The A.O.U. has not met in Mississippi before. Jerry moved that MOS co-host the meeting. Motion was seconded by Marvin Davis. Motion passed.

Jerry Jackson made the 1984 J. W. Tucker Award for outstanding contributions to Mississippi ornithology to Margaret Copeland for her efforts in bird rehabilitation, in construction and distribution of bluebird houses and her discovery of the first House Finch in Mississippi.

Marvin Davis tabulated the bird count; one hundred and one species were seen.

The business meeting was adjourned. W. A. Hughes introduced Jerry Jackson who gave an educational program on birds in Mississippi.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Broyles, Secretary

RESERVATION FORM: MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY BANQUET

Yes, I plan to attend the banquet on Saturday, May 4, 1985 at the Ramada Inn in Vicksburg. My check for _____ is enclosed.

Signed: _____

Cut out and mail to Hal Moore
1 Lakeside Drive
Vicksburg, MS 39180

Or call Hal at 638-2680. Please make reservations early so that Hal will have a correct number of seatings at the banquet.

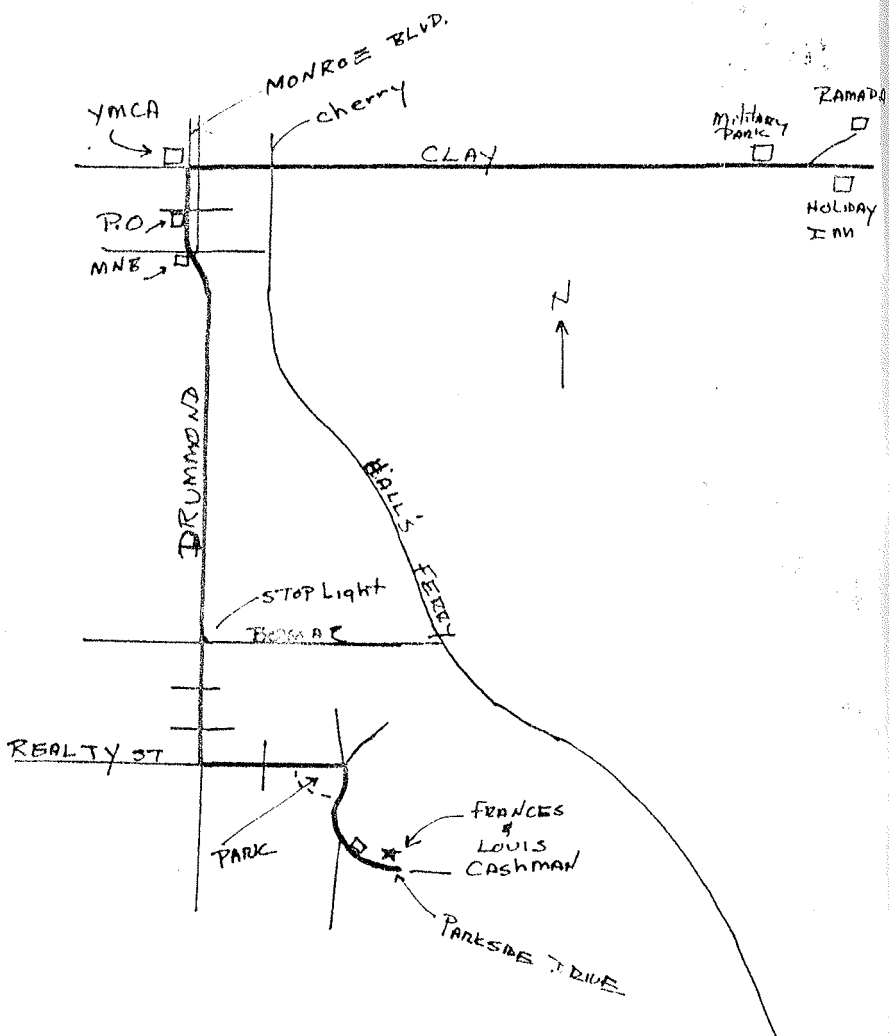
EXTRA.....EXTRA.....EXTRA.....EXTRA.....EXTRA.....EXTRA.....EXTRA

Louis and Frances Cashman extend the following invitation to all Friday night MOS arrivals....Come to the Cashmans for a light supper and get-together, starting at 7:00 p.m., Friday, May 3, 1985! So that Louis and Frances will know how many MOS members to expect, please fill out the following and mail to-

Louis Cashman
1449 Parkside Drive
P O Box 951
Vicksburg, MS 39180

Dear Louis and Frances...Yes! count me in for your Friday night get-together, and thank you for making the Vicksburg meeting one I wouldn't miss.

Signed: _____



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