

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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MOS NEWSLETTER

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Minutes of the 1985 Spring meeting:

The 1985 Spring meeting of the Mississippi Ornithological Society was held on May 4, 1985, in Vicksburg. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Hal Moore, in the absence of the President, Bette S. Jackson. The meeting was hosted by "The Vicksbirders".

A tally of birds seen during Saturday field trips totalled 118 species. Mr. Moore announced that a pair of Bald Eagles had nested on the Eagle Lake levee in Warren County, with one young still in the nest.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Cashman were thanked for their hospitality on Friday night.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Edward Alexander read the treasurer's report. He suggested that some of the MOS passbook money be put into another Certificate of Deposit. He also announced that a number of people had not paid dues for 1985, and that notices would be sent. Mr. Alexander suggested that permanent trustees for the CD and savings accounts be named. A motion was made and passed that Edward Alexander and Larry Gates, whose names are presently on the accounts, be made the permanent trustees.

Minutes of the 1985 Spring meeting, cont'd:

Larry Gates announced that MOS T-shirts are in, and credited Lydia Thompson, who did the art work. Price for T-shirts is \$8.00 each. The official Mississippi State Check Lists have also been printed and are available at 5/\$1.00. The fact that there was no permanent address to put on the check lists was mentioned.

Field trips for Sunday were announced. It was also announced that the fall meeting is to be held the first weekend in November on the coast. Tishomingo, or an area below McComb, were suggested as possible good places for the Spring 1986 meeting.

Mal Hodges announced that the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society had entered a team in the New Jersey Birdathon. They solicited pledges for the numbers of species to be seen during the birdathon, a fund-raiser for their Audubon chapter.

It was announced that the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Conservation has published William H. Turcotte's tape recordings of Mississippi bird songs, on two 60-minute tapes. They are available from the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation, 111 N. Jefferson, Jackson MS 39204. Mr. B. Erskine Gandy will handle distribution. More information will appear in Mississippi Outdoors later. The tapes are ideal for call-tapes.

The business meeting was adjourned. Mr. Moore then introduced the speaker, Judy Toups, who gave a program on the history of Gulf Coast ornithology.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Dubuisson

MOS FALL MEETING:

The New Orleans World's Fair caused a change-of-venue for the 1984 MOS Fall meeting, which was originally scheduled to be held on the coast. Hurricane Elena, September 2, 1985, hit the coast with a vengeance, and for a time we feared another postponement was in the wind. However, much practice in the art of hurricane clean-up has made for a fast recovery, with most establishments open for business.

The host-committee of the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society cordially invites all members of the Mississippi Ornithological Society to meet with us on the coast on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of November.

MOS Fall meeting, cont'd:

We have a full schedule of activities lining-up. Here's a preview.

Friday night, November 1, 1985:

From seven until ten p.m., MOS members and guests are invited to a get-together and informal buffet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Morgan, 140 Walda Drive, Biloxi (388 3671). The Morgan home is not far from motel-row on Highway '90, and it is suggested that those of you who are unfamiliar with the residential areas of the coast follow this verbal map to the letter (and the food): From U. S. Highway 90, in Biloxi, turn north on Beauvoir (landmarks; the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and the Jefferson Davis Shrine). Follow Beauvoir north til it ends at Pass Road traffic light. Turn left; go one block to the next set of lights, and turn right (north) on Popp's Ferry Road. Follow Popp's Ferry Road to the intersection (traffic light) and turn left (west) on Old Bay Road. Follow Old Bay Road (it makes a quick left and quick right jog) keeping woods on your right. Where Old Bay Road comes to a "Y", go straight ahead on Walda Drive. The Morgan home is on the right side of Walda Drive, and has a post-and-rail fence around it.

Saturday morning, November 2, 1985: 7:15 A.M.

This is field trip time. All field trips depart from Bay St. Louis in Hancock County. If you are staying at a Harrison County motel, allow yourself 45 minutes to drive to our meeting place, which is the parking area immediately southwest of the traffic light at the western end of the Bay St. Louis bridge on Highway 90. From there we will leave in small groups (we hope to have a number of local leaders to guide MOS members around this bird-rich area).

Those who have birded on the coast before in early November will recall that this is a good time to locate some locally-rare species, and we will try our darndest to come up with one or more of them: Eared Grebe, Franklin's Gull, White-winged Dove, Common Ground Dove, Groove-billed Ani, Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Lark Sparrow. Ducks should be here in representative numbers, and there should be good birding in Hancock County. If you wish to bird in Jackson County on Saturday, please feel free to do so, but Jackson County was the most heavily damaged area in Hurricane Elena, which could present problems for the birder. Gulf Islands National Seashore at Davis Bayou is closed at this date, and many county parks are closed until further notice.

Field trips will wind down between 2 and 3 p.m.. Last stop of the afternoon will be Lydia's Audubon Shop in Bay St. Louis, for refreshments and a look-see at this delightful answer to the birder's Mail-order nightmare!

Saturday night, November 2, 1985: 7: P.M.

Meeting, banquet, and program will be held in the Versailles Room at the Royal D'Iberville on U. S. 90 in Biloxi (east of the Broad-water Marina), promptly at 7:00 P.M.

MOS Fall meeting, cont'd:

The menu will be Chicken Princess with all the trimmings, at \$10.50 (including gratuity) per person.

Guest speaker will be Theodore R. Simons (Ted), who is Research Biologist of the U. S. National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

Ted received his B.S. in Wildlife Ecology in 1975 at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, his M.S. in Wildlife Biology in 1979 at the University of Washington, and his Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology in 1983, also at the University of Washington.

His dissertation focused on "Biology and Conservation of the Endangered Hawaiian Dark-rumped Petrel (Pterodroma phaeopygia sandwichensis)".

Professionally, Ted has served as a Research Associate with the U. S. National Park Service, University of Washington, Maui, Hawaii, as Assistant Lecturer, Wildlife Science Program, College of Forest Resources, University of Washington, Seattle, and Research Associate, U. S. Forest Service/University of Washington, Seattle, and has served also as a REsearch Associate, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Washington, Barren Islands, Alaska.

Ted's program will focus on his experiences while studying seabirds in Alaska.

The Versailles Room will be available to MOS until 12 midnight, so there is every reason to enjoy an after-meeting get-together with old friends without needing to rush from the meeting place.

Sunday morning, November 3: (times to be announced)

We have three separate diversions in the works for Sunday morning. The first is a morning field trip to Pascagoula River Marsh, which will begin at 7:30 A.M. at PRM. This includes a walk around the dikes for shorebirds and water birds and we ask that you arrive on time (allow an hour from your Biloxi motel). To get to PRM from Biloxi, follow U.S. 90 east through Ocean Springs, and Gautier, following over the causeway to a sign which reads "Ingalls West-bank Shipyard". Leave U.S. 90 at that point, turning right. Travel up the ramp, over the railroad overpass, to the parking area beyond (dikes will be on your right).

Additionally, we have two other offerings. Officials at the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge in Gautier have

MOS Fall meeting, cont'd:

agreed to take small groups of birders in search of the cranes. According to Officer George Chandler at the refuge, groups should be limited to six people, and the first group to go out stands the best chance of encountering the cranes. That event will begin at 8:00 A.M. Sunday morning, from the refuge headquarters. MSCNWR headquarters are located in Gautier. To get there, travel east on Interstate 10, to the Gautier-Vancleave exit (#61). Go north on the Gautier-Vancleave Road for .7 of a mile, to the road leading to the Visitor Center.

Tom and Gale Singley of Pascagoula have volunteered to take a small number of birders boating, either up through the bayous or along the Sound near Pascagoula. Plans have not been ironed out for this, but further announcements of all Sunday field trips will be made at the meeting on Saturday night.

Reminders: Participants in Saturday field trips should allow for the paucity of convenience stores in the best birding areas of Hancock County. Please bring lunch or snacks, including cold drinks, and please make sure your automobile is gassed up before departing on field trips. Plan on being back to the car-pooling location by 3:00 P.M.

Sunday field trips will all end either at mid-morning or by noon-time, so only snacks should be necessary. There will be no reconvening of MOS after Sunday trips.

Please bring this newsletter with you so you won't get lost in finding the locations mentioned (Singley location later, at the meeting).

As most of you know, accommodations on the coast are more costly than in other parts of the state. Most of the chain motels on motel row on Highway 90 in Biloxi run from \$36.00 single to \$44.00 double, but there are now some budget-type motels which may be somewhat less. The following list includes all motels within a five-mile latitude of the Royal D'Iberville, where we will have our Saturday night meeting. Conventions could be first-in-line for rooms, so you are encouraged to make your reservations as early as possible. Unfortunately, the Royal D'Iberville is pretty well booked for other conventions, but they do have a few rooms available. Because of the hurricane, some motel rooms on the coast are out of commission, conventions have been shifted from one motel to another, and obtaining reservations should be the first priority of all who intend to make this meeting.

Please do not delay in filling out the attached form, which will give the local committee an idea of how many members will attend. This is important!

LIST OF MOTELS, ALL OF WHICH ARE WITHIN FIVE MILES OF THE ROYAL D'IBERVILLE HOTEL, AND WITHIN FORTY MINUTES DRIVING TIME OF THE FIELD TRIP MEETING PLACE IN HANCOCK COUNTY: ALL ARE LOCATED ON HIGHWAY 90 IN BILOXI OR GULFPORT: THOSE WITH 388 or 896 prefix are the closest to the D'Iberville.

Best Western Biloxi Inn 388 1000
Best Western Oak Manor Motel 435-4331
Best Western Swan Motel 432 0487
Biloxi Beach Motor Inn 388 3310
Biloxi Hilton 388 7000
Biloxi Travelodge 388 5531
Broadwater Beach Hotel 388 2211
Cabana Gardens Motel 388 2181
Econo Lodge 374 7644
Economy Inn-Coliseum 388 7231
Economy Resort Inn 374 8888
Emerald Beach Motel 388 3212
Flamingo Motel 436 4327
Holiday Inn (Biloxi) 388 3551
Howard Johnson's 388 6310
LaLinda Motor Inn 388 4621
Quality Inn West 388 5130
Ramada Inn 388 5512
Rodeway Inn of Biloxi 388 5111
Royal D'Iberville 388 6610*****
Sand Dollar Motel 388 3202
Sea Gull Motel 896 4211
South Wind Motel 896 1761
Sun Kist Motel 374 1148
Sun-N-Sand Resort Motel 388 3131
Twin Star Motel 388 2610
Alamo Plaza Hotel Courts 896 4422
Coast Motel 896 7881
Deep South Motel 896 7808
Fairchild's Motel 896 7515
Red Carpet Inn 864 1381
Sahara Motel 896 7211
Worth Motor Lodge 896 3641
