

MOS NEWSLETTER

February 1988

Volume 33, No. 1

MOS SPRING 1988 MEETING: VICKSBURG

The spring meeting will take place on 22-24 April, 1988, in Vicksburg. Our hosts, the Vicksbirders, have chosen the theme of hawk watches: the banquet speaker will be Chuck Feerick, South-central Regional Coordinator of the Hawk Migration Association of North America.

An added attraction will be a display of bird photography by Bill Stripling, a Vicksbirder. Also, as many of us know from past meetings here, the spring birding around Vicksburg is exciting, and they plan to take us to all the hot spots! Hal Moore suggests that, if interest warrants, a trip to Tensas Refuge in Louisiana (where there is a diorama on display of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers) will be scheduled.

Mark your calendars for this event. Further details on banquet, outings and accomodations will be announced in an upcoming newsletter in late March.

Minutes of the Fall 1987 Meeting, 7 November, Biloxi

Agenda

1. Recognition of hosts
 2. Introduction of new members and guests
 3. Reading of minutes of 2 May 1987 meeting
 4. Treasurer's report
 5. Old business:
 - 5.1 MOS membership figures
 6. New business:
 - 6.1 Spring 1988 meeting
 - 6.2 Membership dues
 - 6.3 Progress on upcoming Mississippi Kite
 - 6.4 Breeding bird atlas project
 - 6.5 Request for CD trustee
 - 6.6 Donation to WRANPS
 - 6.7 Request for MS Wildlife Federation support
 - 6.8 MOS Records Committee report
 - 6.9 Tucker Award presentation
 - 6.10 Species countdown
 - 6.11 Publications available for sale
 - 6.12 Remarks concerning statewide Audubon Council
 7. Banquet speaker
1. President Judith Toups extended thanks to the MS Coast Audubon Society for hosting the meeting.

(Fall 1987 minutes cont.)

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2. New members and guests were introduced; the President gave a special welcome to Dalton King.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
4. Janet Dubuisson read the treasurer's report (which follows these minutes).
5. Old business:

5.1 After dropping delinquent members, as announced at the spring meeting, current MOS membership is now 120.

6. New business:

6.1 Hal Moore volunteered to host the spring meeting in Vicksburg.

6.2 President Toups announced that 1988 membership dues are due.

6.3 Jerry Jackson also spoke on MS's breeding bird atlas project. After discussions with other states' atlas organizers who were attending the San Francisco AOU meeting, Dr. Jackson felt that MS does not at this time have the manpower, money, or support to conduct a state atlas project. However, MOS members should still begin preliminary work on the project by scouting out areas and keeping careful records. A prerequisite for serious work on the project will be the support of the state wildlife commission. Jackson estimated that the project will cost in excess of \$20,000, including \$10,000 for maps and another \$10,000 for printing and other paper work. The MOS is incapable of financing such a project without outside support. Since other states' support has come from state government, Jackson is presently seeking aid from Mississippi in order that we too might begin our own project.

6.5 Judith Toups announced that, due to Larry Gates' resignation, a trustee for the organization's certificate of deposit was needed. Charlene Roemer volunteered to become trustee.

6.6 Toups motioned that, since the MOS is interested in birds, the organization should help the state's Wildlife Rehabilitation and Nature Preservation Society by giving a donation. In addition to the Coast

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7. Banquet
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(Fall 1987 minutes cont.)

chapter, Jackson, Hattiesburg, and Natchez branches were added to the motion. A motion was then made to donate \$100 to each chapter. Since there was concern that the Hattiesburg branch was not operational, the motion was amended to delay a donation there until the chapter's status could be ascertained. The motion was seconded by Jan Dubuisson and passed unanimously.

- 6.7 Ellen Goetz asked for MOS support for the MS Wildlife Federation as a result of its lawsuit pursuing the professional status of the Executive Director of the Dept. of Wildlife Conservation. Due to its legal actions, the MWF is now \$20,000 in the red. President Toups suggested members could best support the cause by individual donations and memberships.
- 6.8 Bill Turcotte reported on the MOS Records Committee meeting held earlier in the evening (see full minutes of that meeting in this newsletter).
- 6.9 Jerry Jackson, chairman of the Tucker Award Committee (members: Bill Turcotte, Marvin Davis), presented the award for significant contribution to MS ornithology during the past year to Hal Moore, who was cited especially for his contributions as Vice President of MOS and for his leadership of the Vicksbirders, the state's most active birding group.
- 6.10 Malcolm Hodges conducted a countdown of species seen during the day's field trips (see list in this newsletter).
- 6.11 Judith Toups announced that Birds and Birding on the Mississippi Coast would be available for sale after the meeting. Toups, Jerry Jackson, and Dalton King would autograph members' copies. Toups also announced that Rob Peeples had available checklists of the northwest MS counties of Desoto, Tate, and Tunica.
- 6.12 Tom Stokes spoke to members concerning formation of a statewide Audubon Council. He stated that Mississippi is one of the few states without such an organization, which would be useful in speaking as a group to the wildlife commission.
7. Banquet speaker Nancy L. Newfield spoke to members on hummingbirds. Highlighted were plantings to attract hummingbirds, an overview of Newfield's research work, and

(Fall 1987 minutes cont.)

slides depicting the great diversity of hummers found in the Americas.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
John T. Battalio, Secretary

MOS Financial Report: May-October 1987

Income

Dues	200.00	
Interest	146.01	
Donations	200.00	
Sales: T-shirts	100.00	
Publications	63.00	
Checklists	17.00	
		726.01

Expenses

Printing Newsletter	70.44	
Postage: Newsletter	116.30	
Miscellaneous	7.61	
Supplies	10.82	
Dues	50.00	
Meeting	117.12	
		372.29
Net profit		353.72

Balance Sheet

Assets

Balance in checking:		
Gulfport	1872.18	
Starkville	183.91	
		2056.09
Balance in savings	2725.28	2725.28
Certificate of deposit	2000.00	2000.00
		6781.37

Janet Dubuisson, Treasurer

Wood Stork Information Requested

Reports of Wood Storks are needed to investigate post-nesting dispersal in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi; reports should include locality, date, and numbers of adults and juveniles.

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(Stork info. cont.)

The Wood Stork is on the Federal endangered species list in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Alabama. This is to protect the U.S. breeding population, which is totally within that area at present. Most of the storks occurring in other states are believed to be from rookeries in Mexico, but there is little hard evidence for this. The information sought in this inquiry may provide evidence of the origin of these birds.

If you are aware of an area frequented by Wood Storks, please try to ascertain the number on the earliest date of their arrival, along with age determinations (juveniles have a yellow bill) and subsequent changes in numbers and age ratios. Any data from previous seasons will be welcome also. Information submitted to David R. Linden, c/o Yazoo NWR, Rt. 1 Box 286, Hollandale, MS 38748, will be greatly appreciated.

From the editor:

I have received tallies from six MS CBC's, but still lack figures for the following counts: Arkabutla Lake, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Jackson Co., Moon Lake, Natchez, and S. Hancock Co. Compilers that get this information to me within the next few weeks will see it in the next number of this newsletter; otherwise, I will print latecomers in the following newsletter (vol. 33, no. 3).

I have MOS T-shirts for sale:

light blue in small and medium sizes (cut small):	\$ 8.00
grey in medium, large, and extra large (cut big):	10.00

If you want some, send your request without a check; I'll send the shirts with a bill including mailing costs. These shirts show our logo on the front left breast, and are illustrated with a MS Kite on the back; no MOS member should be without one!

Lori Willimont, one of Jerry Jackson's new students, also has some T-shirts for sale: save the Bahama Parrot T's, with a beautiful five-color design on a white 50/50 shirt. These come in small through extra large, for \$10.00 plus mailing. If she gets several orders at once, the mailing costs will be less, so get your friends to order with you! The money goes to fund studies of this endangered species. These shirts are illustrated with two Bahama Parrots---I ordered three for myself!

I also have a few copies of Judy Toups and Jerry Jackson's book, Birds and Birding on the MS Coast, for \$17.95 plus mailing charges. A must for any MS birder.

Checklist of Species Seen during the MOS Fall 1987 Meeting

The following species were seen in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties on 7 November 1987 by MOS members:

Com. Loon	Cooper's Hawk	Yellow-bel. Sapsucker
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-shouldered H.	Downy Woodpecker
Horned G.	Red-tailed H.	N. Flicker
Eared G.	Am. Kestrel	Pileated Woodpecker
Am. White Pelican	N. Bobwhite	<u>Empidonax</u> sp.
Brown P.	Clapper Rail	E. Phoebe
Double-cr. Cormorant	Sora	Tree Swallow
Am. Bittern	Com. Moorhen	Barn S.
Great Blue Heron	Am. Coot	Blue Jay
Great Egret	Sandhill Crane	Am. Crow
Snowy E.	Black-bellied Plover	Fish C.
Little Blue Heron	Semipalmated P.	Carolina Chickadee
Tricolored H.	Piping P.	Tufted Titmouse
Reddish Egret	Killdeer	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Cattle E.	Greater Yellowlegs	Carolina Wren
Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	Lesser Y.	House W.
Yellow-cr. N.-H.	Willet	Winter W.
White Ibis	Ruddy Turnstone	Sedge W.
Gossey I.	Red Knot	Marsh W.
White-faced I.	Sanderling	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Snow Goose	W. Sandpiper	Ruby-crowned K.
Wood Duck	Least S.	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Green-winged Teal	Pectoral S.	E. Bluebird
Mottled Duck	Dunlin	Hermit Thrush
Mallard	Short-b. Dowitcher	Am. Robin
N. Pintail	Long-billed D.	Gray Catbird
Blue-winged Teal	Com. Snipe	N. Mockingbird
N. Shoveler	Laughing Gull	Brown Thrasher
Gadwall	Franklin's G.	Water Pipit
Canvasback	Bonaparte's G.	Loggerhead Shrike
Redhead	Ring-billed G.	European Starling
Ring-necked Duck	Herring G.	Solitary Vireo
Lesser Scaup	Lesser Black-b. G.	Orange-crowned Warbler
Scoter sp.	Caspian Tern	Yellow-rumped W.
Bufflehead	Royal T.	Pine W.
Red-br. Merganser	Com. T.	Com. Yellowthroat
Ruddy Duck	Forster's T.	N. Cardinal
Black Vulture	Black Skimmer	Dickcissel
Turkey V.	Rock Dove	Rufous-sided Towhee
Osprey	Mourning D.	Field Sparrow
Am. Swallow-t. Kite	Com. Barn-Owl	Savannah S.
Black-shouldered K.	E. Screech-Owl	Song S.
Bald Eagle	Hummingbird sp.	Swamp S.
N. Harrier	Belted Kingfisher	White-throated S.
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Red-bel. Woodpecker	Red-winged Blackbird

Checklist of

E. Meadowlark
Boat-tailed

A total of

Coming up

* Details of
Vicksburg

* Minutes

* Summaries

Checklist continued:

E. Meadowlark Com. Grackle House Sparrow
Boat-tailed Grackle Brown-headed Cowbird

A total of 140 species were seen.

Coming up in the next MOS Newsletter:

- * Details of times and places for the spring 1988 MOS meeting in Vicksburg.
- * Minutes of the fall 1987 meeting of the MOS Records Committee.
- * Summaries of MS Christmas Bird Counts for the 1987/1988 season.



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March 19

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