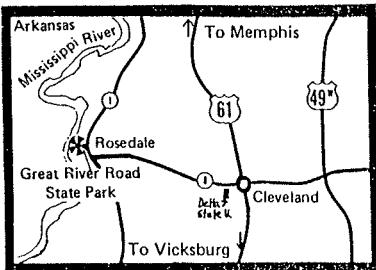


September 1988

Volume 33, No. 3

MOS Fall 1988 Meeting: Cleveland/Rosedale, 7-9 October

The fall meeting will take place in Bolivar County: Cleveland will be the site of gatherings and hotel accommodations, and we will concentrate our birding efforts in the Rosedale area, where the late M.G. Vaiden made so many important discoveries about Mississippi's birdlife.



### Gatherings

Friday night reception: 7-9:30 p.m., Delta State University, Cleveland. Student Union, 2nd floor East Lobby area.

Directions: 14 blocks W of US Hwy. 61 on MS Rte. 8, S side of road. Turn in at main entrance (Delta State Univ. sign at ground level), go to end of street (one block) to front entrance of Student Union.

Please eat supper beforehand; only soft drinks, coffee and light snacks will be served at the reception. Checklists and other Society materials will be available.

Saturday night banquet: 6:30-9:30 p.m., Papaw's Family Restaurant, Cleveland.

Directions: About 3 blocks N of MS Rte. 8 intersection on US Hwy. 61, E side of highway---can't miss it.

We will eat from the prodigious buffet, which includes shrimp, clams, crab, catfish, froglegs, and chicken, all you can eat, for \$10.95. No advance reservations or prepayment are required, but if we have more than 40 participants, the meeting room will be free (bring a friend!). Please be there early enough to allow the business meeting to begin by 7:30 p.m.

The banquet speaker will be Malcolm Hodges, who will present a program entitled "Birding Mississippi Delta Catfish Farms," which will include information on how to bird the farms, what to expect there, when to go, problems and benefits of birds to the farmers, and problems at the birder/fish farmer interface.

### Field trips

Field trips and leaders will be spelled out in detail at the

(Fall 1988 meeting, continued)

Friday evening reception. Two or more groups will be assembling at 8 a.m. in Great River Road State Park at Rosedale, 20 mi W of Cleveland on MS Rte. 8. Follow signs in Rosedale directing you across the main River levee into the park. There is a \$1 per vehicle daily entry fee at the park, if you haven't bought a \$10 annual MS state park sticker. Assemble with leaders at the W end of the road at the parking lot by the lookout tower. Bird walks in the park can begin here conveniently in three directions, although some may wish to go back toward the levee to begin.

There may be a group beginning the day at the Port of Rosedale, about 1 mi further south; another site on the list is an access point to the River just N of Rosedale---Terreen Landing. A huge sandbar separates the state park from the channel of the Mississippi, which at current levels cannot be seen well even from on top of the tower. At least three catfish farms are in Bolivar County as habitat for waterbird migrants. Some further possibilities are yet being investigated.

Box lunches for Saturday will be available at the Visitors' Center in the state park near the tower and a picnic pavilion. The pavilion is reserved for MOS use from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Lunches will be picked up at the Visitors' Center, and we will eat at the pavilion; drinks are available at the Center and the pavilion.

No advance payment for box lunches will be necessary, but we'll need a figure to give park management on the number of lunches to make (tentative price: \$3). Please notify Marvin Davis (308 Lewis Lane, Oxford, MS 38677; phone 234-1773) if you wish lunches and the number. We will hold you to this commitment unless you let us know of a change of plans.

Sunday a.m. birding plans will be arranged at the Saturday night banquet.

#### Accommodations

Plenty of rooms are now available in Cleveland, but there is a home football game that Saturday, so please make your reservations now to insure a room. Choices:

Holiday Inn: US Hwy. 61 S on W side; phone 846-1411;  
1 person, \$28 upstairs, \$33 downstairs; 2 persons, \$38.  
(Prices don't include tax.)

Western Motel: US Hwy. 61 S on E side (across from Holiday Inn); phone 843-6908. King-size bed, 1 person, \$31.80; 2 persons, king-size bed or 2 full-size beds, \$37.10; each additional person, about \$5.

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(Fall 1988 meeting continued)

Colonial Motel: NW corner of intersection US Hwy. 61 and MS Rte. 8; phone 843-3641; 1 person, \$25; 2 persons, \$30.

Great River Road State Park (camping): Rosedale; phone 759-6762; campsites filled on first-come, first-served basis. Concrete pads with full hook-ups; bath house.

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From the Editor:

MOS Records Committee should send items for the fall MOSRC agenda to John Battalio (4802 Halls Ferry Rd., Vicksburg, MS 39180) by 15 September.

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On the back of your Newsletter are marked the years for which your MOS dues are paid (a check-mark means you are paid for '86 through '88; "L" designates life member). If and when MS Kites are published, you will only receive issues for the years you have paid. Issues pending are Vol. 16(2) (1986), Vol. 17(1 & 2) (1987), and Vol. 18(1) (1988). Please try to stay current with your dues, even though we are not receiving MS Kites. Refusing to pay dues out of protest is an empty gesture, since the Kite Editor does not see who has paid and who hasn't. I will continue to send Newsletters to non-current members until the Kite is caught-up.

MOS dues are as follows: life, \$100; sustaining, \$20; individual or subscribing, \$10; family, \$15; junior/golden age individual, \$4; junior/golden age family, \$8.

Please send checks to the Treasurer.

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Minutes of the MOS Records Committee Meeting  
Vicksburg, 24 April 1988

(condensed from the full minutes submitted by John T. Battalio, secretary to the MOSRC)

Present: Marvin Davis, Malcolm Hodges, Jerome Jackson, Joseph McGee, Hal Moore, Steven Peterson, Terence Schiefer, Judith Toups, William Turcotte; John Battalio (secretary).

Absent: Edward Alexander

Chairman Turcotte called the meeting to order and made opening remarks. The minutes of the fall 1987 meeting were approved.

Reports on two repositories for MOSRC records were given: Peterson reported that the MS Museum of Nat. Sci. is prepared to

(MOSRC minutes continued)

receive records from the MOSRC. He said the MMNS has computer facilities, and information can be made available to interested parties. MMNS records are kept on the second floor in safe storage and were not affected by the recent flood. Peterson and Turcotte both agreed however that MMNS records need to be reorganized. Peterson noted that he has already found early MOS correspondence and checklists; Turcotte added that the missing 8 mm film documenting Limpkin for the state has been recovered. Davis added that the MOSRC should resubmit the Limpkin documentation for publication in the MS Kite since the record has only been published previously in the MOS Newsletter, which is not archival.

Jackson next summarized MSU's facilities. Specimens are catalogued and retained in collection. In addition, several files are maintained: nest record card, sight record card, bibliographical (personal), rare bird record, and photographic (archival, in plastic folders). Much of the MSU documentation is now on computer. Jackson is also working with the state Natural Heritage Program on an annotated list of MS birds.

The proposed guidelines for the MOSRC submitted by Schiefer were next discussed. After general comments by Toups and Jackson, the following specific comments were made:

1. Jackson commented that at least six committee members would be appropriate but questioned the need for ten, especially since the MOS may not always have enough people to fill that many positions. Toups noted that the three additional members were added because of their interest and their location in the state. Hodges added that the exact number was arbitrary. Committee consensus was that the proposal should be amended to change membership numbers to percentages in order to allow for a varying number of committee members.

2. Jackson noted that there was no provision in the guidelines concerning whether a record would be invalidated if all members did not vote. Toups suggested a majority vote. Moore added that the proposed percentages would solve the problem.

3. Discussion of documented sight records centered on three stated positions. Jackson first stated that since the ADU and other reputable organizations require three competent observers for sight records, the MOSRC should do likewise. One-observer records would not be lost since they may appear in the MS Kite, though such records do not have to be on the state list. The problem of one-observer records was noted by the incidence of a Utah graduate student falsifying records to obtain a grade. Hodges argued that the MOS should not be placed in the same

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category as the ADU. One to three observers should be allowed to submit details on any given record. The MOSRC would then vote on each record on an individual basis. Toups added that one-observer records should be acceptable. Committee members were reminded of the difficulty of finding capable local birders to substantiate records. Many MOS members of necessity bird by themselves; thus, one observer who takes time to write up a sighting should not be penalized. A three-observer rule could cause the state to lose good records. As presently listed, bracketed species mean hypothetical ones; thus, there should be no confusion as to a species' status, though it was noted that there are degrees of "hypothetical," traditional usage causing problems of meaning. Nevertheless, one-observer sight records should be listed on the state checklist to make people aware of birds to look for and of those that need further documentation.

4. Turcotte felt that distribution of records imposed an undue burden on the Chairman. The consensus was to reword the note more generally, as for example: "Records will be sent to each MOSRC member prior to committee meetings."

5. Turcotte asked Jackson to oversee revision of the proposal and to send committee members copies of the revision before publishing it.

6. Davis moved that the proposed guidelines be accepted as amended. Hodges seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Davis asked Schiefer if he had compiled the ten-year summary of MS bird occurrences, sent earlier to committee members. Though Schiefer had received summaries from only two members, he said that he would submit a preliminary list and ask members to update it. He also asked members with field notes and records from previous years to submit copies of them to him.

Jackson proposed that a third copy of significant photographs received by MOSRC should be sent to VIREO since it is a national repository for first local records.

After a brief discussion, committee members agreed that the MOS checklist should not be copyrighted. General consensus was that it was unnecessary. Jackson added that state lists were already being published and cited the Desante and Pyle book as an example.

Jackson asked about the listing of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker as rare on the Sardis Lake checklist. Davis replied that the listing was based on past records; the species has now been extirpated from Lafayette County.

(MOSRC minutes continued)

Before discussion began on the proposed checklist changes, Hodges noted that, since the committee voted to accept the proposed guidelines, voting must be done by mail. Consequently, the Chairman asked the MOSRC secretary to send him a ballot based on the proposed changes. Each species' name should be listed with "yes" and "no" columns for voting and space underneath to explain "no" votes. The following species were then discussed:

1. Sooty Shearwater: Hodges noted the omission of an important line in copies of his documentation sent to members. The following should be inserted between "dark brownish-gray," and "except for" on line 13: "The underparts were the same color. The wings were very dark gray."

2. Roseate Spoonbill: Since a ten-year occurrence list must first be assembled to determine species' status as regular, casual, or accidental, the committee deferred voting on this species to a later date.

3. Northern Goshawk: Toups stated that she will submit her documentation to members by mail.

4. Purple Sandpiper: Photo observed.

5. Thayer's Gull: Toups asked that members consider observers as well as the description itself.

6. Buff-bellied Hummingbird: Photo observed.

7. Black-chinned Hummingbird: Photo observed.

8. Cave Swallow: Specimen and photo observed.

9. Grace's Warbler: Davis will send members a sketch of the observation.

10. Bronzed Cowbird: Voting on this species will be postponed. Members agreed that photos submitted to the committee should be sent to Kenn Kaufman for his expert identification.

Other business: Documentation on sighting of Lazuli Bunting should be submitted to MOSRC members in time for the fall meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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## MOS Members Set ABA Records in Three States

OXFORD---As in 1987, again this year American Birding Association records for Big Day birding have been challenged and broken by MOS members. On 30 April the team of Marvin Davis, Malcolm Hodges and Terry Schiefer (the "Mississippi Marauders II") ran an Arkansas route westward from Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge N of West Memphis, and across the state through Lonoke and Little Rock to Russellville and nearby Mt. Nebo State Park. Last year's record of 120 species set by Davis and Gene Knight fell soundly before this day's total of 140.

On 11 May, Davis and Hodges recombined for a record-setting effort in a brand new category: all on water, the first Boating Big Day. Down some miles of the Tallahatchie River into Lake Sardis, down the lake, and concluding with Lower Lake, they travelled 48 mi and tallied 109 species.

On 16 August, Davis did a "specialty" Big Day in Colorado for corvids (crows, jays and relatives). From about 10,000 ft in elevation in the Wet Mts. to 4700 ft at Pueblo, he listed all 10 corvid species known in Colorado, to exceed the prior listed mark of 9 species in one day, which were recorded on a two-state route in Idaho and Wyoming. Davis found 10 species in under 8.5 hr within an area encompassed by a circle of 34 mi diameter. To exceed 10 in one day in one state is possible (barring extralimitals) only in Texas, where it could be done, but probably not without traveling by airplane, as Big Day birders have been known to do down there!

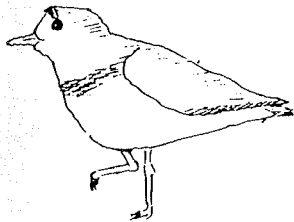
## Song of the Spouse

by Janet Palmer, Columbus, Ohio (from the November/December 1985 issue of Bird Watcher's Digest)

Clothes curdle in the dryer,  
Peas dwindle in the hull;  
She wanders whistling with the swan  
And laughing with the gull.

No dinner waits upon the plate,  
Imbroglia the sink.  
She gathers in the golden field  
The song of the bobolink.

While dishabille the bedding,  
Unwashed the pantry window,  
She's out there piping plover,  
Gone dipper in the meadow.



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