

MOS Fall 1989 Meeting: J.P. Coleman State Park on Pickwick Lake, Tishomingo County, Mississippi

The fall meeting of the MOS will take place in the far northeast corner of the state on 22-24 September 1989. The schedule will be as follows:

Friday, 7:30-10 p.m.

Welcome social, at motel restaurant in the meeting room, J.P. Coleman State Park.

Saturday, 6:30-7:30 a.m.

Continental breakfast (coffee, rolls, doughnuts) in motel lobby. Birding groups will form at this time.

Saturday, 7:30 a.m.-?

Birding in groups in and around Coleman State Park. Maps (provided by city of Iuka) will be distributed and groups will form in front of motel at the park.

Please mark your banquet reservation form if you are interested in a box lunch for this day.

Saturday, 6:30 p.m.

Meet at motel restaurant, Coleman State Park, for banquet, meeting and guest speaker.

Please send your reservation form for the banquet so that it will arrive no later than 15 September (see enclosed form). The banquet menu is chicken cordon bleu, green beans, creamed corn, salad, peach cobbler, rolls, tea and coffee. The cost is \$8.70 per person, payable at the meeting. Please send these reservations along as soon as you can! If your reservations are late, call Carolyn Jarnagin at work, (601) 287-2527 or home, 286-5939.

The banquet speaker will be Lori Willemont, a Masters student at Mississippi State University studying ornithology under Jerry Jackson. She will speak on the birds of Abaco, Bahamas, where she has been doing research for years on the Bahamian Parrot and the West Indian Red-bellied Woodpecker.

Sunday, a.m.

Breakfast and birding arrangements will be announced at the Saturday night general meeting. There will be a meeting of the MOS Records Committee at the motel after breakfast.

If you have not yet made reservations for accommodations and do not plan to camp, please call the park motel at (601) 423-6515 as soon as possible. Rooms and cabins are still available as of this printing.

(MOS Fall 1989 Meeting continued)

To get to the park, take U.S. 72 east to the Iuka exit, which is also Miss. highway 25, and head toward Iuka. To stay on 25 you must turn left at the only traffic light in Iuka. After 4 miles, turn right at the sign to Coleman State Park. Follow this road 6 miles and turn right again; the sign here is not so noticeable, so you might watch for an Amoco station, the "Fisherman's One-Stop." About 2 miles past this intersection is the park entrance.

The park personnel have been very cooperative in helping organize this meeting. They have given us carte blanche to bird wherever we want---it should be plenty of fun!

Blue Jays: A Study in Tenacity

by William H. Turcotte

On 21 August 1989 I watched a Blue Jay with a crippled wing climb a southern red oak in our front yard three times. It reached a height of 12 feet or more, and also climbed up a nearby loblolly pine. This bird has been in and around our yard about two months using our feed (placed on the ground) and the bird baths nearby, also on the ground.

We first noticed this behavior about a week earlier. The jay feeds with other birds on our driveway. Passing cars cause the others to fly and the crippled jay hops to the nearby oak, leaping about two feet to grasp the bark; it continues with shorter upward leaps until it reaches the first limb. Its progress up the tree is very quick. With the damaged wing it is now able to flutter down to the ground but unable to make an upward flight. At other times we have observed this bird climb an oak which is covered by English ivy on one side. The jay always climbs on the bark side.

This behavior is even more interesting to me because I had several years earlier observed a Blue Jay, also with a broken wing, at the base of a water oak in our yard trying to jump and climb to its nest. A storm caused the injury. This jay tried for three days in succession to climb up the tree and would leave only to go to roost on a nearby fence row; it was later found dead there.

MOS Records Committee Meeting, Spring 1989

The MOS Records Committee (MOSRC) met 7 May 1989 in Natchez, Mississippi. Members present were: Marvin Davis, Malcolm Hodges, Hal Moore, Steve Peterson, Terence Schiefer, and Bill Turcotte. Chairman Steve Peterson presided.

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(Minutes of MOSRC spring 1989 meeting continued)

The accessibility and organization of Mississippi's bird records were discussed. In previous MOSRC it was agreed that copies of bird records be deposited at both Miss. State University and the Miss. Museum of Nat. Sci. in Jackson. It was noted that progress toward this goal has been slow. Peterson suggested that photocopies of the thousands of bird record cards at MSU be sent to the State Museum, in lieu of their not being computerized.

It was noted that the various ornithological collections in the state need to be completely catalogued, so this information can be easily accessed. The whereabouts of the Vaiden Collection catalog were also discussed.

Turcotte related several stories about Fanny Cook. Peterson stated that ballots for the current vote have been received from all committee members but Jerry Jackson and Joe McGee, and he would mail the results when he receives their ballots.

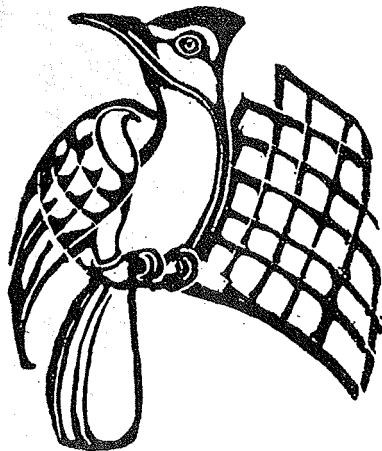
Hodges suggested that documentation of rarities be mailed with the ballot. It was agreed that this would simplify voting. Since "reason for vote" is not needed on 2nd circulation votes, it was decided to clarify the ballot by changing it to read "reason for vote---1st circulation only."

The need to update the MOS Checklist was noted. Schiefer and Hodges agreed to submit a sample checklist format to the committee.

Marvin Davis distributed documentation for records of Mountain Plover and Ruddy Shelduck. The photographs of the Mountain Plover were voted as acceptable documentation for that species.

Respectfully submitted,
Terence Schiefer, Secretary

Blue Jay -
Linoleum block
print by
Walter Anderson.



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All those interested in Mississippi bird life are invited to join the MOS. MOS dues: Life, \$100; Sustaining, \$20; Individual, \$10; Family, \$15; Junior/Golden Age, individual \$4, family \$8; Subscribing (institutions) \$10. Send dues to the Treasurer.

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