

MOS Newsletter

Winter 1989-90

Volume 35. Number 1

90th Christmas Bird Count

The following Mississippi CBCs will be held during the count period of Saturday, 16 December through Wednesday, 3 January. I have information on all but the two "Memphis" counts---Arkabutla Lake and Moon Lake (Lula). If you are interested in participating in a count, contact the person indicated as soon as possible.

Saturday, 16 December:

Jackson Co.---contact Terrie & Larry Gates, Rt. 3, Box 275-C5, Purvis, MS 39475, phone 268-6411.

Noxubee NWR---contact Terry Schiefer, Department of Entomology, MSU, Mississippi State, MS 39762, phone (W) 325-2989, (H) 324-3748.

Thursday, 21 December:

Grenada---contact Marvin Davis, 308 Lewis Lane, Oxford, MS 38655, phone 234-1773. In case of EXTREMELY bad weather, the count may be postponed until the 22nd.

Saturday, 23 December:

Sardis Lake---contact Marvin Davis, as above.

Wednesday, 27 December:

Church Hill---contact Genevieve Little, Rt. 6, Box 250, Kaiser Lake Rd., Natchez, MS 39120, phone 442-4622.

Thursday, 28 December:

S. Hancock Co.---contact Judith Toups, 4 Hartford Place, Gulfport, MS 39507, phone 896-3153.

Saturday, 30 December (a busy day!):

Hattiesburg---contact Terrie & Larry Gates, as above.

Jackson---contact Bill Turcotte, 240 Lowe Circle, Richland, MS 39218. In the event of "heavy rain only," the count will take place on the 31st.

Natchez---contact Ralph Shields, 401 N. Magnolia, Vidalia, LA 71373.

Vicksburg---contact Hal Moore, 1 Lakeside Drive, Vicksburg, MS 39180, phone 638-2680. Hal says the count will take place this day "rain or shine!"

(MS CBC schedule continued)

Sunday, 31 December:

Washington Co. (S.)---contact Ed Alexander, 930 S.
Washington Ave., Greenville, MS 38701.

Tuesday, 2 January:

Sumner---contact Genevieve Little, as above.

Try to take part in more than one count, if possible. Virtually all of these counts are undermanned, and can always use more experienced birders. I will try to participate in 6 MS counts this year, if I can do it without being disowned by my family! Bill and Ed, I'd like to do your counts; I'll call you.

MOS Financial Report: May-August 1989

Income & Expense Statement

Income:		
Dues	129.00	
Interest	91.76	
Sales: T-shirts	48.00	
Checklists	42.00	
	90.00	
Total		310.76
Expenses:		
Printing: Newsletters	26.77	
Postage: Newsletters	36.46	
Spring Meeting	<9.03>	
Donations	500.00	
Total		554.20
Net loss:		<243.44>

Balance Sheet

Assets:		
Balance in checking:		
Gulfport	759.57	
Starkville	683.06	
Balance in savings	3402.48	
Certificate of deposit	2000.00	
		6845.11

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Dubuisson
Treasurer

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Birds to Look For During the Breeding Season

The MOS Records Committee wishes to alert MS birders to the possibility that the following species of birds might be breeding within the borders of our state. Some of these birds, e.g. Song Sparrow, have been recently expanding in nearby states, and should be looked for in border areas of our state in proper habitat. Others almost certainly breed within the state, but need confirmation; an example is Whip-poor-will. Some are strongly suspected of breeding, e.g. Forster's Tern, but breeding habitats are difficult to search. Some have not been found during the breeding season for many years, such as Bell's Vireo, while others are recent invaders, such as Bronzed Cowbird. If you find evidence of the breeding of any of these birds, please contact a member of the Records Committee as soon as possible.

To be looked for in the north:

Sharp-shinned Hawk	Sedge Wren
Spotted Sandpiper	Bell's Vireo
Willow Flycatcher	Cerulean Warbler
Tree Swallow	Black-and-white Warbler
Bank Swallow	Ovenbird
Brown Creeper	Grasshopper Sparrow
House Wren	Song Sparrow

To be looked for along the Coast:

Common Ground-Dove	Bronzed Cowbird
Forster's Tern	

13-YEAR CICADAS IN JACKSON by William H. Turcotte

In 1976 and from about 4-25 May 1989 I observed the emergence of 13-year periodic cicadas in the metropolitan area around Jackson. They occurred in phenomenal numbers as they sang, mated and deposited eggs in the treetops of local woodlands.

At our place in Richland I observed numerous holes where these insects had emerged from bare spots in our lawn. During the time of emergence of cicadas we had four pairs of starlings feeding young in our martin gourds. The adults fed their young almost exclusively from insects on our lawns. On numerous occasions I watched them probe for and retrieve large, whitish insects or larvae, fly directly to feed their young and immediately return to the lawn and continue hunting. I also saw cardinals, bluebirds and jays capture and eat emerging cicadas on our lawn.

Although I found numerous emergence holes in our lawn, not one husk could be found on our place. At the neighbor's house across our street I saw numerous emergence holes and husks left by cicadas on shrubs and flower beds under or near oak shade trees. Presumably our "yard" birds captured most of these insects emerging on our side of the street. A large grove of oak trees

(Cicadas continued)

adjoining our property droned with the sounds of these cicadas but none were heard in our shade trees.

I examined several of the starling nests from our gourds while removing them for winter storage. No insect remains were found in the nests since fecal matter was removed from the nest by the adults.

I recorded the "song" of the several species of the 1989 cicada brood and this experience sparked my interest in recording the sounds of four or five other species of cicadas emerging from late June through August. All have different songs.

1989 Fall Meeting Bird List: J.P. Coleman State Park

The following species were seen by meeting participants from 22-24 September 1989.

Great Blue Heron	Yellow-bl. Sapsucker	Blue-winged Warbler
Great Egret	Downy Woodpecker	Golden-winged Warbler
Snowy Egret	Hairy Woodpecker	Tennessee Warbler
Green-backed Heron	Northern Flicker	Orange-crowned Warbler
Wood Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	Nashville Warbler
Mallard	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Parula
Blue-winged Teal	Eastern Phoebe	Yellow Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Eastern Kingbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Osprey	Tree Swallow	Magnolia Warbler
Bald Eagle	Barn Swallow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Blue Jay	Black-thr. Green Warbler
Broad-winged Hawk	American Crow	Yellow-throated Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Chickadee	Pine Warbler
American Kestrel	Tufted Titmouse	Bay-breasted Warbler
Semipalmated Plover	White-br. Nuthatch	Black-and-white Warbler
Killdeer	Carolina Wren	American Redstart
Least Sandpiper	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	Worm-eating Warbler
Pectoral Sandpiper	Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Ring-billed Gull	Eastern Bluebird	Summer Tanager
Caspian Tern	Veery	Scarlet Tanager
Forster's Tern	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Northern Cardinal
Rock Dove	Swainson's Thrush	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Mourning Dove	Wood Thrush	Indigo Bunting
Yellow-bl. Cuckoo	American Robin	Rufous-sided Towhee
Eastern Screech-Owl	Gray Catbird	Chipping Sparrow
Barred Owl	Northern Mockingbird	Field Sparrow
Chimney Swift	Brown Thrasher	Eastern Meadowlark
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	European Starling	Common Grackle
Belted Kingfisher	White-eyed Vireo	American Goldfinch
Red-hd. Woodpecker	Yellow-thr. Vireo	
Red-bl. Woodpecker	Red-eyed Vireo	

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