
MISSISSIPPI
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LOOKING AHEAD:

MOS Fall Meeting Jointly with the 1992 Meeting of the Colonial Waterbirds Society at Oxford/University:

The MOS will serve, along with the Department of Biology of The University of Mississippi, as local co-sponsor for the October 14-18, 1992 meeting of CWS. It will feature on Wednesday a symposium on Cormorants, contributed papers sessions on Thursday and Saturday, and a Mississippi River and Delta Field Trip on Friday. The riverboat trip (\$50) downstream from Memphis and back on the "Memphis Queen II" will feature Dr. Jerome Jackson as on-board bird authority. After the choice of local field trips and/or papers sessions on Saturday, a joint Banquet meeting that evening will feature a program on "Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills" by Dr. James Hancock, coauthor of a book on that subject with Dr. James Kushlan, Chairman of Biology at Ole Miss. More details will appear in upcoming issues of the MOS Newsletter.

MOS Field Trips--For the Fun of It!

President Schiefer announces the following schedule of three MOS weekend field trips around the State:

1. Date: Saturday 2 May 1992; Time and meeting place: 8:00 a.m., Vicksburg Military Park parking lot; Leaders: Alan Mueller and Hal Moore. Join Alan, Hal and Vicksbirders for a netting and banding demonstration at the Military Park. This will be an excellent opportunity to see some colorful warblers close up. After the banding demonstration, a field trip will go to one of the local hot spots for migrant song birds: Clear Creek, the Military Park or Campbell Swamp. Sounds like fun! If you plan to attend, call Alan (638-2680) or Hal (638-5837) to let them know you're coming.
2. Date: Saturday 16 May 1992. "The Oktibbeha County Breeding Bird Atlas Block Busting Bash!" Organizer: Terry Schiefer, from whom more details may be obtained at 324-2989. "MOS members who attended the 1991 Spring Meeting had such a great time atlasing that we thought we'd give others another chance to help survey the breeding birds of Oktibbeha County; we can surely use your help--give us a call," says Terry.
3. Date Saturday 23 May 1992; Time and meeting place: 7:45 a.m., Walls, MS (W of Horn Lake) at convenience store on the E side of US

61 in "downtown" Walls. Leader: Gene Knight. Objective: to match 1991 experience of "Empids Galore" at Bass Landing on the Mississippi River in Desoto County--all the species of empidonax flycatchers on the MS List seen and heard at a migration peak, along with a singing Connecticut Warbler! Also likely: Painted Buntings, and Grasshopper Sparrows in pastures along the levee. Call Gene at 236-2413 if you plan to attend.

ABA April Meeting at Mobile, AL

Several MOS members will be attending and/or serving as leaders of field trips at the biennial meeting of the American Birding Association. We hope to have a report for the next MOS Newsletter.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Taking a Closer Look at Mississippi's Birds

Terence Schiefer

One of the greatest benefits of having a statewide bird organization such as MOS is that the members can pool their knowledge of birds in their neck of the woods to paint a picture of the birdlife all across Mississippi. We're doing that now with the records that you submit for the "Birds Across the State" feature of Mississippi Kite as well as for the new "Bird Sighting Summary."

However, sometimes it is desirable to gather information on a particular species of bird in Mississippi. There are many species that deserve our attention, but let's start with two--Bewick's Wren and American Kestrel.

Whither went the Bewick's Wren?

The Bewick's Wren has experienced a major population decline throughout its range east of the Mississippi River. Until recent decades it was a regular nesting species in north Mississippi, but there are virtually no recent breeding records. It is now listed as an Endangered Species in Mississippi. We need answers to the following questions: What was the former breeding distribution of Bewick's Wren in Mississippi? Is it still nesting anywhere in the state? When did it begin to decline, and when did it disappear?

Answers to these and other questions may be in the field notes or memories of MOS members. Please send to me all of your records, past and present, of Bewick's Wren during the months of April through September, or any other record that you suspect may represent breeding. Include information on the location, as exactly as possible, date, observer and any indication of nesting (e.g., pairs, territorial singing males, nest building, nest with eggs or young, adults feeding young, etc.). We hope to gather as much information as possible for a paper in the Mississippi Kite.

The Southeastern American Kestrel--Endangered?

Although American Kestrels are common winter visitors throughout

Mississippi, very few kestrels stay to nest. The ones that do are of the smaller southeastern subspecies. Many people are noting a marked decline in populations of this subspecies, and it is now a candidate for federal listing as an Endangered Species. However, not enough is known about the exact status of this subspecies to decide whether such listing is warranted.

MOS can help gather the information needed to determine the status of the southeastern American Kestrel in Mississippi. Please submit all records, past and present, of kestrels seen from May through August, and any other records that you believe may represent nesting. We are particularly interested in gaining knowledge of its current status for the summer of 1992. Make a point of being attentive to kestrels this summer wherever you might be in Mississippi, especially where you've had previous summer records. Data submitted should include exact locality, date, observer, and any evidence of nesting (e.g., pair present, territorial male, bird entering a nest cavity, feeding young, etc.). Negative data are also important as they may demonstrate a decline in Mississippi.

Send records for both Bewick's Wren and Am. Kestrel to: Terence Schiefer, P.O. Drawer EM, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

ALSO, DON'T FORGET YOUR "BIRD SIGHTING SUMMARY FORMS!"

The winter season forms are now being compiled. If you haven't returned yours, the time to do so is NOW! If you have not received a Spring Report Form, but wish to, send your request to Terry.

LOOKING BACK:

WAGTAIL WHOOPES AND A GAGGLE OF GEESE

Nearly three dozen birders exclaimed whoopee!--literally or figuratively--on 31 January and 1 February at Starkville, MS for the crowning touch to a season of fine rarities in northern Mississippi. At a settling pond of the local sewage treatment plant on Friday afternoon, Terence Schiefer was amazed, astonished and astounded to recognize a **Yellow Wagtail** chasing insects over an area of hardened surface that resembled a mudflat. Schiefer was scanning the area, checking on wintering Least Sandpipers and Water Pipits, when a bird flashed some yellow. Upon a closer look, seeing the bird's color pattern, long legs and thin body with long tail, he quickly realized that he was viewing his first-ever wagtail. After making notes of the bird's characters, he curbed an incredible tide of excitement while hastening to alert other observers, including those who might attempt to obtain photographs. Only two others reached the scene before the wagtail flew off to roost shortly before sunset.

However, a number of would-be observers were at hand by 6:30 a.m. Saturday, ready to greet this bird, apparently the first Yellow Wagtail for the Lower 48 States outside of California, when it returned shortly before sunrise. By day's end, the number of

viewers rose to at least 34, including Greg Jackson of Birmingham, who shot good photos of the wagtail. Sadly, an equal number of birders from Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia were disappointed on Sunday as the bird did not reappear. A Monday morning search also was fruitless. No results of experts' viewing of the photographs are yet available, because wagtail experts aren't in North America!

This outstanding find followed by precisely one week a remarkable event at Sardis Lake State Waterfowl Refuge, 85 mi NW of Starkville near Oxford. Three observers there, Gene Knight, Vic Theobald and Marvin Davis, shared the experience of sighting five species of geese at one time on the refuge (while the state's second-ever Trumpeter Swan also was in view). Several thousand wintering Canada Geese, a score or so of Snow Geese and about 25 White-fronted Geese had been joined since November by a first-ever Brant, only the second-ever for Mississippi and the first to be documented photographically. On Friday, January 24 a single Ross' Goose appeared--again a first for the Refuge--and permitted a "five-goose feat" by the fortunate trio. They are wondering how many other birders have ever seen all five regular species of geese in the Lower 48 on one day. If there are some, their further question is, has anyone ever found them at one site, or sighted all five simultaneously in one binocular field? If not, the trio claims another unique record for Mississippi birding. They acknowledge, however, that their Gaggle of Geese is no match for one Wagtail Whoopee, but Knight and Davis are especially elated at having experienced both.

Minutes of the MOS Meeting of February 8, 1992
Leroy Percy State Park

The Spring 1992 meeting of the Mississippi Ornithological Society was held at Leroy Percy State Park, Washington County, MS.

President Terence Schiefer welcomed all to the meeting and called for introductions of new members and visitors. He expressed appreciation to Margaret Copeland and Ed Alexander for their efforts in arranging the meeting and to Nona Herbert, Shannon Knight and others who provided food for Friday evening.

A motion was made by Marion Fahnestock and seconded by Mickey Baker that Minutes of the Fall Meeting be approved as printed in the MOS Newsletter. The motion was passed.

Jan Dubuisson gave the Treasurer's Report (to be published in the Newsletter). She reported a balance on hand of \$6,589.75.

President Schiefer reported that the 2nd issue for 1989 for the Mississippi Kite was completed and that all overdue issues would be caught up by the end of 1992.

Members were asked to indicate on a sign-up sheet if they were willing to lead MOS regional field trips in their locality. Those who planned to participate in the seasonal sighting summaries project announced at the Fall 1991 meeting were reminded that winter forms should be sent to Terry Schiefer by the end of Feb.

It was announced that a meeting of the Board of MOS would be held on the Coast in March--exact date and place to be announced in the next Newsletter. All members were welcomed to attend along with those comprising the Board. One agenda item will be a revision of the MOS constitution.

A further announcement was that the Fall Meeting will be held on October 16-18 in conjunction with the 1992 Colonial Waterbirds Society meeting at Oxford/University, MS. The Saturday evening dinner speaker will be James Hancock from England on the topic of Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills. The President urged members to consider volunteering to host the Spring '93 meeting in their area.

Pres. Schiefer asked for a volunteer to replace Genevieve Tharp as MOS representative to the Mississippi Wildlife Federation.

The 1st North American Bird Day was announced for the 9th of May, 1993. It was described as a new Migration Count activity, to comprise a census coinciding across the continent during the spring migration. All members were urged to participate in their area. Counts are to cover an area including a full county.

Marvin Davis announced that the Ornithological Newsletter, which reaches members of the AOU, Wilson Society and Cooper Society had urged that expressions of support be sent to Congressmen for HR 4045, which is to provide reauthorization and strengthening of the Endangered Species Act. He proposed a Resolution, shown below, to be sent by the Secretary to the Mississippi MCs. The membership voted to approve the resolution with the stipulation that Davis should first review the proposed bill in hand to ascertain that it had been accurately represented. [It was done.]

"Be it resolved that the members of the Mississippi Ornithological Society in their meeting on 8 February 1992 express their strong support of the pending bill H.R. 4045, sponsored by Congressman Gerry H. Studds. This bill is to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act with strengthening amendments. We solicit the full support of each Member of Congress from the State of Mississippi for the bill as filed, and their opposition to any weakening amendments that may later be offered."

A representative from the Sierra Club spoke to the members present advising that the Club has a part-time lobbyist to the State Legislature, but that there is a need for a full-time lobbyist to represent all environmental groups of the State. The question was

whether MOS could make a direct contribution toward a fund for this purpose. Jeff Wilson suggested that interested members might best be allowed to make a check-off of MOS dues for this. Pres. Schiefer indicated that the matter would be considered by the Board, and asked that members provide Board members with their opinions on the issue.

A tally of the birds identified in the area on the Saturday field trips was made by Gilbert Beaver. [see last page]

A Special Presentation was made by Judy Toups--the "Top Banana Award" to Terence Schiefer for his recent finding of the Yellow Wagtail. After receiving the yellow emblem of the award, Terry entertained the membership with a description of the momentous discovery at the Starkville Sewage Lagoon and of his excellent efforts, aided by Margaret Copeland, to broadcast the news. Some 35 lucky birders did get to see the wagtail on the next day before its too-soon departure from the site.

The after dinner speaker was Tommy King, Wildlife Biologist with the Mississippi Research Station of the US Department of Agriculture. He gave a very interesting talk and slide show on the studies being made on Double-crested Cormorants on and about the catfish farms of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta counties.

Respectfully submitted,

Chita Cassibry, Secretary

NEWS FROM THE FIELD: Winter Season

This winter North Mississippi has produced an exceptional number of outstanding findings by a quite limited number of active bird-finders. These consisted of:

(1) The Brant described above, present before Thanksgiving and on the Sardis Lake CBC, provided photographic documentation of the species to support full status on the Mississippi list.

(2) The immature Trumpeter Swan indicated above, 2nd record for Mississippi, first locally, was found shortly before and on the day of the Sardis Lake CBC, and was still present on 3/23.

(3) A Prairie Falcon at Enid Lake was the first photographically-documented occurrence for Mississippi; seen by many from all over Mississippi to at least 2-7.

(4) Red-throated Loon, found on the Sardis Lake CBC and thereafter sporadically for 6 weeks by multiple observers; at least 2 present! Only singles before in MS; only second non-coastal record--first was also at Sardis Lake on 1-2 January 1991.

(5) A single Red-necked Grebe was found both at Enid Lake in early December (and 2-13), and at Sardis Lake in late December and early January. There were no prior north MS records and very few from south MS (but 1 was found same day this December at Pascagoula).

(6) On 7 January an immature Black-legged Kittiwake, about 10th

record for the state, was located at Grenada Dam. It was the best-behaved ever for a rare gull in these parts, showing itself daily for 1st four consecutive days, and being seen yet on Feb. 9.

(7) In late December and early January, a beautiful male Vermilion Flycatcher was performing for viewers at Matthews Brake NWR, Sidon.

(8) On 4 February Gene Knight obtained a near-enough observation to identify 2 Pacific-type Loons feeding with a Red-throated Loon near Sardis Dam! Later that day Davis saw and agreed on Pacific ID. On 30 December both had seen 2 similar-sized, suspicious loons in company with 2 definite Red-throats. Jeff Wilson, Lydia Schultz and Janet Miller along with Knight and Davis relocated 1 Pacific there on 5 Feb., and on Feb. 7 Judy Toups and others from the Coast added a sighting. Unfortunately, a photograph was not obtainable at the excessive distances involved.

(9) The "crowning touch"--Yellow Wagtail detailed above!

(10) A lingering "winter visitor," an adult Goshawk, studied well by Gene and Shannon Knight on 29 March in the Yocona River bottoms of Lafayette County [not yet on Mississippi State List].

However, not to be outdone, central Mississippi birders enjoyed a Western Grebe, approximately the tenth all-time occurrence for the state. A dozen or so members from far places also spotted this grebe on their way to the MOS meeting on 7 Feb.

Birders on the Gulf Coast reported that the perennial Lesser Black-backed Gull was back and a Purple Sandpiper reappeared for at least the 3rd consecutive year in Gulfport. Moreover, a Buff-breasted Hummer was present in Jan.-Feb. at Lydia Schultz' feeder in Waveland. Most recently, a report arrived of a Biloxi fisherman's wharf Glaucous Gull and a Great Black-backed Gull at the Pascagoula Causeway. (Gulf Coast, here I come!) Winters can be great for birding in Mississippi!

1991 Christmas Bird Count Highlights

Arkabutla (Rob Peeples, compiler)--22 Dec.; 12 observers in 4 parties; 36 party-hrs.; temp. 49-62 and dry--2030 N. Shovelers, 1119 Hooded Mergansers (Ed.: now I know why we were so short of Hoodies at Sardis L.), 530 Ruddy Ducks, 1 Greater Yellowlegs, 101 Ca. Wrens, 131 Savannah Sparrows, 2 Lincoln's Sparrows, 2 Purple Finch, 1 Pine Siskin; TOTAL: 90 species.

Church Hill (Genevieve Tharp, compiler)--21 Dec.; 3 observers in 2 parties; temp. 57-75 and dry--4 Great Blue Herons, 6 Great Egrets and 26 Mallards were only water birds; 280 Horned Larks and 274 Am. Crows (2nd highest and highest counts, respectively, for MS this year!), 118 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 1 Com. Yellow-throat; 26 Redwings and 5 E. Meadowlarks were only icterids! 1 House Finch. TOTAL, 58 species. [G.T.: "This count is rapidly becoming more and more memorable for what is not seen and how hard it is to locate what is found." Editor: Take heart Genevieve; you have a great territory for counting Horned Larks and Am. Crows! Seriously, to

have such high counts for both of those species seems quite remarkable, since crows aren't found at all in most of the areas of dense Horned Lark populations in MS.]

Grenada (Marvin Davis, compiler)--19 Dec.; 11 observers in 5 parties; 46 party-hours; temp. 30-46 and dry.--1 Common Loon, 7 Bald Eagles, 24 Least Sandpiper, 15 Fish Crow, all 3 nuthatch species, 2 House Wren, 1 Marsh Wren, only 1 Winter Wren, 12 Lapland Longspur. TOTAL: 97 species (+ Bewick's Wren and Com. Yellowthroat in count week)

Hattiesburg (Larry Gates, compiler)--28 Dec.; no. observers, etc.? --2 Eared Grebe, 1 Anhinga, 939 Ruddy Ducks, 1 Osprey, 7 Spotted Sandpiper, 1 Gray Catbird, 1 Lark Sparrow. TOTAL, 96 species.

Jackson (Steve Peterson, compiler)--28 Dec.; 17 observers in 7 parties; 69 party-hours; temp. 50-53, dry.--1 Com. Loon, 6 Am. White Pelicans, Greater and Lesser Scaup 6 each! 75 Buffleheads, 423 Hooded Mergansers, 2 Virginia Rails, 2 Common Terns, 64 Forster's Terns, 5 Com. Yellowthroats, 30 Am. Tree Sparrows. TOTAL: 101 species. (Incl. a spontaneously singing Winter Wren!)

Jackson County (Larry Gates, compiler)--14 Dec.; no. of observers, etc.?--18 Com. Loon, 18 N. Gannet, 249 Am. White Pelicans, 88 Brown Pelicans, 2 Anhingas, 1 Yel.-crn. Nt. Heron, 113 White Ibis, 16 species of waterfowl, 10 Ospreys, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 35 Sandhill Cranes, 4 Am. Oystercatchers, 19 sp. of shorebirds, 1 Black-and-White Warbler, 26 Palm Warblers. TOTAL, 144 species (+ Bald Eagle in count week)

Moon Lake (Ben Coffey, compiler)--27 Dec.; 4 observers; 15 party-hours; temp. 48-54, dry.--31 Grt. Bl. Herons, only 3 Ruddy Ducks, 144 Blue Jays (only corvids), 4 Winter Wrens. TOTAL, 64 species.

Noxubee N.W.R. (Terence Schiefer, compiler)--22 Dec.; 18 observers in 7 parties; 60.5 party-hours; temp. 48-71 and clear-- 2 Blue-winged Teal, 432 Gadwall, 6 Wild Turkeys, 159 Am. Coots, 5 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, 30 E. Phoebes, 2 House Wrens, 10 Sedge Wrens, 2 Marsh Wrens, 1 White-eyed Vireo, 4 Solitary Vireos, 2 Orange-crowned Warblers, 10 Com. Yellowthroats [the prior 8 species support the conclusion that mild fall weather had a considerable effect on unusual "lingerers," as did also sighting of 4 identified species of butterflies!]. TOTAL, 95 species.

Sardis Lake (Marvin Davis, compiler)--21 Dec.; 13 observers in 4-6 parties; 51 party-hours; temp. 46-54, mostly drizzle or light rain.--**Red-throated Loon** (first for count), 5 Com. Loon, 1 imm. **Trumpeter Swan** (first for MS CBC, 2nd for State!), 31 White-fronted Geese, **1a Brant** (Atlantic; 1st for MS CBC, 2nd for State!), 1 Com. Merganser, 1009 Ruddy Ducks, 21 species of waterfowl, 217 Turkey Vultures, 1 female **Northern Parula** (1st for MS CBC?). TOTAL, 103 species (New High)

Sidon (Philip Barbour, compiler)--28 Dec.; 20 observers in 3 parties; 30.5 party-hours; temp. 45-55 and dry--225 Great Blue Herons, 6 Cattle Egrets, 3 species geese, 15 species of waterfowl, 1 Merlin, 1 ad. male Vermilion Flycatcher, 334 Horned Larks (MS high), 6 Tree Swallows, 30 Lapland Longspurs, 53 House Finches. TOTAL, 93 species.

Southern Hancock County (Judith Toups, compiler)-- 27 Dec.; 16 observers; # party-hours? Temp. 47-59 with light to heavy rain all day plus flood tides.--1 Eared Grebe, 1 N. Gannet, 13 Am. White Pelican, 1 Am. Bittern, 6 Plegadis species, 19 species of waterfowl, 1 Osprey, 6 species of Rallidae, 16 species of shorebirds, 1 Short-eared Owl, 2 Palm Warblers, 1 Wilson's Warbler. TOTAL, 142 species (+ 6 in count week: Reddish Egret, Black Scoter, Bald Eagle, Am. Oystercatcher, Western Sandpiper, Western Kingbird)

Sumner (Genevieve Tharp, compiler)--30 Dec.; 2 observers in 1 party; 10.25 party-hours; temp. 43-50 and dry.--916 Double-cr. Cormorants, 4150 Ring-necked Ducks, 225 Horned Larks, only 3 Swamp Sparrows, but 128 White-crowned Sparrows. TOTAL, 64 species (+ one in count week)

Vicksburg (Hal Moore, compiler)--28 Dec.; 10 observers in 7 parties; 49.5 party-hours; weather?--103 Great Egrets (more than on the 2 coastal counts!), 5 Wild Turkeys, 19 Com. Snipe (only shorebirds!), 8 Caspian Terns (1st for count), 1 female Vermilion Flycatcher (1st for count), 2 Grasshopper Sparrows, 1 Lincoln's Sparrow. TOTAL, 89 species.

Washington County--South (Edward Alexander, Jr., compiler)--29 Dec.; 14 observers in 7 parties; 49 party-hours; temp. 45-54 and dry--Double-crested Cormorant, 17,652 (high for this year in MS; any prior no. higher??), 5 Cattle Egrets, 502 Gr. White-fronted Geese, 2 Blue-winged Teal, 12,157 Ruddy Ducks (no wonder Moon Lake was so low on these!), 1 Red-tailed (Harlan's) Hawk (perhaps the same one we saw on the 8 February MOS field trip here?), 25 Semipalmated Plover (exceptional inland record, but conditions were extra good to yield 8 species of shorebirds!), 1 Yellow-throated Warbler, 12 House Finches. TOTAL, 102 species.

CBC SUMMARY: Almost every count had reasonably good conditions, especially in contrast to most of last year's counts. The prior mild weather showed effects in many respects--most broadly at Noxubee NWR in terms of marginal small perching bird species, of which the Parula Warbler at Sardis lake was another outstanding instance. The exceptional collection of shorebirds at a drained catfish pond in Washington County also reflects the mildness. It was a great season; let's hope for one as good next year! (The upcoming CBC period will be Saturday Dec. 16, 1992 through Thursday Jan. 2, 1993)

Newsletter Notes

The MOS Board in January voted for the Newsletter to be returned to the full-size type format that it once knew in former years. That transition has been made, but the format may need some adjustment (or is it the Editor who needs adjustment?). We hope to attract some volunteer artistic efforts for future use in the header for the "front page" and/or other illustrations. The Honker was recruited from the Corps of Engineers' Sardis Lake Bird List. The art is by Mary (Mrs. David) Dutton.

Since the current editorship of the Newsletter began in Fall 1990, the Editor has received much here-to-fore unacknowledged assistance in getting it mailed to you all. Namely, MOSer and Oxford Bird Club member Judy Burkepile, husband Dick and son Deron have contributed much time and effort, taking the printer's output and doing the necessary folding, stamping, stapling, and taping before mailing is possible. A round of applause, and our sincere thanks to Judy and her two men!

MOSers Seen in Print Elsewhere:

1. Jerome A. Jackson, "From Hollywood to Broadway," Birder's World, February 1992, pp. 12-15. An interesting, informative account of the history of illicitly-transplanted "eastern" House Finches, and their population explosion, which promises soon to extend to the point of their making contact with the western U.S. population somewhere on the plains of Kansas or Oklahoma.

Calling Attention to Interesting Ornithological Reports:

A PLETHORA OF PARASITES

The "Photographs of the Season" section of American Birds for January 1992 included a picture by Coast birder Ray Russell of a male **Shiny Cowbird** at a feeder behind Lydia's Audubon Shop at Waveland. Judy Toups looked out a window, spotted the "new" cowbird, along with some Brown-headed Cowbirds, and called Russell to come and bring a camera. His photo should validate a rather unwelcome addition to the Mississippi State List (becoming the 3rd cowbird species)--because of the injurious effects of the cowbirds' nest parasitism of other birds. This species invaded the Lower 48 from the Caribbean via peninsular Florida about five years ago.

LATE BULLETIN:

Southeastern American Kestrel--Pres. Schiefer (above) raised the subject of possibly dwindling kestrel populations in Mississippi. Someone who might be moved to take action on this problem probably could draw from a fine idea described in an item offered in the latest Ornithological Newsletter. Available free of charge from the Iowa Department of Transportation, Office of Project Planning, Planning and Research Division, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010, is an 8-page 1992 report on "Establishing a Nestbox Program for American Kestrels along an Interstate Highway: Recommendations based on the Iowa Program." Having I-10, I-20 and I-55 in the state, there may be a great opportunity for a similar program.

BIRD LIST FOR MOS MEETING, S. WASHINGTON CO., 8-9 FEBRUARY, 1992

Pied-billed Grebe	Dunlin	Brown Thrasher
D.-cr. Cormorant	Common Snipe	Am. Pipit
Great Blue Heron	Am. Woodcock	Cedar Waxwing
Great Egret	Bonaparte's Gull	Loggerhead Shrike
Little Blue Heron	Ring-billed Gull	Eur. Starling
<u>Tundra Swan</u> (9th)	Herring Gull	Yel.-rumped Warbler
Gr. Wht-fr. Goose	Rock Dove	Pine Warbler
Snow Goose	Mourning Dove	Com. Yellowthroat
<u>Ross' Goose</u>	E. Screech-Owl	N. Cardinal
Canada Goose	Grt. Horned Owl	<u>Dickcissel</u>
Wood Duck	Barred Owl	Ruf.-sided Towhee
Green-winged Teal	Belted Kingfisher	Chipping Sparrow
Mallard	Red-hd. Woodpecker	Field Sparrow
N. Pintail	Red-bel. Woodpecker	Vesper Sparrow
N. Shoveler	Yel.-bel. Sapsucker	Savannah Sparrow
Gadwall	Downy Woodpecker	Fox Sparrow
Am. Wigeon	Hairy Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Canvasback	N. Flicker	Swamp Sparrow
Redhead	Pileated Wdpecker.	White-thr. Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	E. Phoebe	White-cr. Sparrow
Greater Scaup	Horned Lark	Dark-eyed Junco
Lesser Scaup	Tree Swallow	Lapland Longspur
Bufflehead	Blue Jay	Red-w. Blackbird
Hooded Merganser	Carolina Chickadee	East. Meadowlark
Ruddy Duck	Tufted Titmouse	West. Meadowlark
N. Harrier	Brown Creeper	<u>Yel.-hd. Blackbird</u>
Cooper's Hawk	Carolina Wren	Rusty Blackbird
Red-tailed Hawk	House Wren	Brewer's Blackbird
(incl. <u>Harlan's</u>)	Winter Wren	Common Grackle
Am. Kestrel	Sedge Wren	Brn.-head. Cowbird
Wild Turkey	Golden-cr. Kinglet	Purple Finch
Am. Coot	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	House Finch
<u>Sandhill Crane</u>	E. Bluebird	Am. Goldfinch
Killdeer	Hermit Thrush	House Sparrow
Greater Yellowlegs	Am. Robin	
Least Sandpiper	N. Mockingbird	TOTAL SPECIES: 105

 (Please check and fill appropriate blanks, cut along line, and return form with your check for 1992 membership dues (see price schedule on reverse side) to Treas. Janet Dubuisson at 22410 Glad Acres, Pass Christian, MS 39571)

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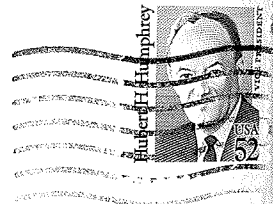
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**All persons interested in Mississippi bird life are invited to
join the MOS. Life Membership, \$100. Annual dues: Sustaining,
\$20; Individual, \$10; Family, \$15; (Junior and Golden Age:
Individual, \$4; Family, \$8); Institutional (Subscribing): \$10.
Members receive the Mississippi Kite semiannually and the MOS
Newsletter on a quarterly schedule for each season.
Please send 1992 dues, or address changes, to the Treasurer.**

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