MISSISSIPPI
ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
Vol. 37, No. 4

VOL. 37, No. 4 EARLY WINTER (DECEMBER) 1992



LOOKING AHEAD:

Christmas Bird Count Season Is Coming Soon!

Christmas Bird Count Schedules:

Thursday, 17 Dec., Grenada--contact Marvin Davis, 234-1773. Friday, 18 Dec., Church Hill--contact Genevieve Tharp, 442-4622. Saturday, 19 Dec., Jackson County--contact Larry Gates, 268-6411. Saturday, 19 Dec., Sardis Lake--contact Marvin Davis, as above. Saturday, 19 Dec., Noxubee NWR, contact Terry Schiefer, 324-3748. 20 Dec., Vicksburg--contact Hal Moore, 638-2680. 21 Dec., Sardis Lake--contact Marvin Davis, 234-1773. Monday, Saturday, 26 Dec., Sumner--contact Genevieve Tharp, 442-4622. Sunday, 27 Dec., Arkabutla--contact Rob Peeples, 901/683-2315. 28 Dec., Sidon--contact Philip Barbour, 455-4166. Monday, 28 Dec., S. Hancock Co.--contact Judy Toups, 896-3153. Monday, Saturday, 2 Jan., Hattiesburg--contact Larry Gates, 268-6411: Sunday, 3 Jan., S. Washington Co.--contact Ed Alexander, 332-7895

1993 Spring Meeting Plans

Please reserve the weekend of April 30-May 1 for the 1993 Spring Meeting of MOS, which is expected to be held, according to current planning, in far NE Mississippi, perhaps at Tishomingo State Park. Margaret Copeland and Terry Schiefer have volunteered to work on plans for this occasion. Full details will be available in the next Newsletter, about 1 March 1993.

NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am deeply honored and somewhat overwhelmed to be your new MOS president. I promise to work hard to make this the organization it can and should be, and solicit your help and advice as I attempt to lead.

Among the goals that I have personally for the next two years are:

- Improve attendance and participation at MOS meetings.
- Continue and expand the field trips led by MOS members around the State.
- Update the Constitution and Bylaws so that they reflect our actual contemporary structure and function [this will

require help from long-time members and former officers].

• Hold regular board meetings to further the planning and execution of goals.

• Adopt an annual budget to enable us to have a better understanding of our financial status.

• Provide Dr. Jerry Jackson with assistance to achieve and maintain currency of publication of the Mississippi Kite.

By working together we can make MOS an organization that we can all enjoy and be proud of. Please help by offering your suggestions and assistance.

JoRee Pennell

LOOKING BACK:

New Officers Installed

At the 17 October business meeting, the Nominating Committee reported its slate of nominees for a 1992-94 term, who were duly elected by vote of the members present. Our new President, past-president of the Gulf Coast Audubon Society, is Jo Ree Pennell of Ocean Springs, MS. Serving as Vice-president will be David Watts of Jackson, who is employed by the Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks as editor of their excellent publication, Mississippi Outdoors. An active birder from Starkville, Margaret Copeland, is our new Secretary. Re-elected for the vital duties of Treasurer from the glad acres of Pass Christian was Janet Dubuisson. They, as well as your two incumbent editors, welcome your suggestions as to how the MOS can be improved. What do you see as a need for MOS to be doing that we are not? Please give the MOS officers your input.

Summary of Activities at the Fall 1992 CWS/MOS Meeting

Lots of congenial visiting, an excellent Canadian movie on cormorants, "Raven of the Sea," and two fine member-contributed slide shows on Friday evening by Julia Broyles and Jeff Wilson (included a number of shots of his recent find in TN, the Sharptailed Sandpiper); a very enjoyable Saturday in the field with more good conversation; an excellent buffet "all-you-can-hold" dinner, and a most charming and witty Britisher as speaker giving a very informative after-dinner program--those were the features of the 1992 Fall Meeting missed by a perhaps unprecedented number of our MOS members! We who partook of them only wish that more had been there to share the enjoyment of those activities also.

James Hancock, Saturday evening speaker, gave a fervent plea for strenuous conservation efforts world-wide with respect to the groups that were his subject of the evening: storks, ibises and spoonbills. All three are suffering severely on all continents from adverse impacts of human activities, in part because of their low adaptability, in contrast to the herons. Hancock showed his own photos of many of the species taken on several continents, but particularly in southeast Asia, as well as paintings illustrating his new volume on these three groups of long-legged waders as published in recent weeks, with James Kushlan and Philip Kahl as coauthors, by Academic Press.

Three Mississippians (MOSers Nona and J.C. Herbert, and Mary Stevens) joined with many registrants at the Colonial Waterbird Society (CWS) annual meeting for a Friday a.m. "warmup" event--a trip down the Mississippi River on the Memphis Queen II, which by virtue of the then-passing cold front proved to be a far-from-warm time, temperature-wise. Nona says, "it was great fun!" For your Editor, who was part of the working party onshore as the MQ II approached Bass Landing (Desoto County), the landing operation was very interesting; fortunately, it didn't become exciting! The MQ II Captain displayed great skill in bringing her into the shallow water and placing the square bow directly onto the "riprap" or concrete facing of the river channel (as placed by the U.S. Corps to stabilize the banks) for the passengers to disembark and climb to the top of the riverbank. A highly interesting fact was that he hadn't done such an operation before there, or elsewhere! the CWS meeting introduced something new for recent times on Old Man River thanks to the inspiration of Dr. Jim Kushlan, chairman of the Ole Miss Department of Biology, whose brainchild it was.

In the p.m., the 92 trip participants were taken by busses and vans around the North Delta area for interesting visits to two catfish farms and one roost of the Double-crested Cormorant, to say nothing of two fields where souvenirs were obtained by a cottonpickin' bunch of ornithologists! The owner and operator of one of the farms, Sterling Whithers, gave his very direct and personal insights on living with, and in spite of, an increasing number of uninvited participants in the catfish harvest at his ponds--the thousands of cormorants from the nearby roost! This growing problem of the catfish industry in Mississippi, and other aspects of cormorant biology, were the subject of a lively symposium well-attended (ca. 140) by CWS members and others interested in the topic. To no one's surprise, ready solutions were not revealed, but the needs and approaches for further investigation were examined and discussed.

The birding highlight of Friday for most if not all on the trip was a cooperative unusual transient—a beautiful adult male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher who perched contentedly across the road from the busses and vans to give great views—for many an exciting "life" bird! That statement can be made safely because a fairly high proportion of the CWS members were from foreign countries. For example, the turnout for a Sunday a.m. field—trip to close the meeting included two gentlemen from Canada, two from France and one from Italy! England, Portugal and Japan were also represented at the meeting.

Minutes of the Fall 1992 Business Meeting of MOS

President Terence Schiefer called together for the business meeting the few members present on the evening of October 17, 1992 during the social hour before the combined CWS-MOS dinner meeting. The prior Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved as published in the spring Newsletter issue. Treasurer Jan Dubuisson presented an updated financial report for printing in the winter issue. The report of the Nominating Committee (Davis, Cassibry, G. Knight) was presented; the nominees (as listed elsewhere in this Newsletter)

were approved by a unanimous vote of members present. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Highlights of the Fall Meeting Bird List

There were two groups of MOSers afield on Saturday--one covering Wall Doxey State Park and Hurricane Landing on Sardis Lake plus the Lower Lake area at the Dam, the other hitting Enid and Grenada Lakes. The total for their combined lists, plus those of members afield in the area on Sunday, went to ca. 110 species. The rarest sighting was of a group of five phalaropes seen from the dam on Sardis Lake, while feeding and while flying, by Jeff Wilson. Although too far for identification to species, their locale and behavior pointed to either Red-necked or Red Phalarope [having seen the Red-necked since then on Lake Milwood in SW Arkansas, Jeff now believes rather confidently that the ones on Sardis were Red Phalaropes]. The former has never been found on the N MS Corps reservoirs, nor has the Red, but it was once found several miles below Sardis Dam in mid-October.

FROM THE FIELD

Fall Migration:

From Bolivar County, vicinity of the Cleveland-Shaw metro area, Nona Herbert reports that there must have been a great year for reproduction among Tree Swallows. She found the exceptional October crowds of migrants most impressive. One of these years soon, we should be able to get a first documented breeding record for the species in Mississippi--probably from the northwest area. Exciting sightings at and near the Mississippi River at Rosedale, i.e., Great River Road State Park area, included Black-billed Cuckoo twice, Peregrine, Merlin, Western Kingbird and a pleasing variety of sandpipers, warblers and Empidonax flycatchers. short, there were a number of species found that are unlikely to be seen in the northern hills region. Those birds seem to take that "Mississippi Flyway" stuff seriously! [Compare to the last issue report from W. TN on the Ferruginous Hawk flying down the river!] Also at the river was one Black Bear spotted by Terry Schiefer in the state park! The Knights saw no bear but plenty of bear tracks there.

An event on the Gulf Coast was a rare and irregular Longbilled Curlew that was available for a week on the air force base at Biloxi in early October. By the first weekend of October there were sightings of double-digit numbers of the regular but usually rare Groove-billed Ani, a wanderer from coastal areas to the west-southwest. Between Seaman Rd. WWTP lagoons and those at Hattiesburg, all 3 scoters were found in the last week of Oct. A remarkable Common Merganser at the former was mighty far south at a mighty early date. The same could be said of a light phase Rough-legged Hawk at the Hancock Co. catfish farm on 10/20 that flew directly over Cassibry and Toups. The bulletin-bird for the last week of Oct. was a hummer at Lydia Schultz's yard that was identifiable as a Black-chinned Hummingbird!

[Please note: This feature aims to stimulate folks to "get out

and get looking." A "news report" here <u>does not</u> comprise a definitive publication. Be sure to submit a <u>written</u> report of all sightings of potential regional interest <u>at the end of each season</u> to the appropriate area sub-editor (J. Toups or T. Schiefer) for <u>American Birds</u>, and thus also for the <u>Mississippi Kite</u>.]

Newsbytes from the Neighboring States

An immature Peregrine shared space in an October 7, 8 news spot on Memphis TV and a feature in the Memphis newspaper with MOSer Jeff Wilson. Jeff was the rescuer of said falcon from the clutches of the mire in one of the WWTP sewage sludge pits in Shelby County, where the celebrated Sharp-tailed Sandpiper stayed for 8 days in September to thrill ca. 250 people. While pursuing a meal, the Peregrine dipped so close to the surface that a wing caught and tumbled the bird into the mess as Jeff watched. obtaining some wading equipment, Jeff went in after the unfortunate bird, then took it to the Memphis Zoo, which operates a Raptor Rehab Center. Cleaned, dried and rested from its stressful experience, the Peregrine was released back at "the pits" in front of the TV cameras the next day. We can only hope that the juvenile bird will remember to check its altitude more carefully in future ventures over such habitats! Two months in a row, Jeff--what's the schedule for your next TV appearance? All kidding aside, it was good footage and newsprint exposure for birds and birding in both September and October stories.

Recent Interesting Ornithological-related Literature Algal Biotoxin Hits Birds as Well as People!

"Red menace in the world's oceans," a research news report by Elizabeth Culotta, in Science, vol. 257, pp. 1477-78, 11 Sept. 1992, describes new findings on algal "blooms," long known to cause fish kills on coasts, e.g., the "red tide" in Florida's Gulf In 1991 Brown Pelicans eating anchovies offshore in California were found to be dying. Research efforts were led by a young DVM at the CA Dept. of Fish & Game, who prodded his colleagues to help him find out "why pelicans were dropping out of the sky in Monterey Bay." The team found that a common west-coast species of diatom was producing domoic acid (to get revenge on unwary eaters?). This same toxin had been first discovered when it was found to be responsible for a 1987 outbreak of human poisoning in Prince Edward Island, CANADA, from eating mussels. four persons died and some survivors were found to have lost permanently their short-term memories from the brain toxicity, causing the illness to be named "amnesic shellfish poison." Then the unsuspecting pelicans died from ingesting domoic acid via the anchovies. Varied anecdotal reports indicate a widespread upward trend for such toxic algal episodes, perhaps arising from a trend toward an excess accumulation in coastal waters of anthropogenic nitrogen and phosphates, i.e., those coming from human activities or pollution. It all makes a person satisfied and happy as an abstainer from invertebrates or even anchovies in their diet!

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTING AT GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI: 1967-1991 Marvin Davis (Compiler/Organizer)

Reaching a quarter-century mark is a sufficient excuse for a retrospective view of many activities, and surely so in the realm of Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs). Another good reason for highlighting the 25th Grenada CBC was that it marked the retirement from the Grenada team, after their contributing to 21 of those, by Ben B. Coffey, Jr. and his partner, Lula Coffey. All who have shared the field efforts at Grenada with Ben and Lula over the years value and laud their efforts, but agree that it is due time to curtail their strenuous agenda, which has for many years meant four Mississippi CBCs plus two in Tennessee--a pace that few folk much younger than they are could match! Before the 1992 CBCs, Ben's all-time total of counts stands at 232 (since 1926) and Lula's at 192 (since 1932). Join me in saluting them!

The following cumulative species list, with the number of years each was found, may provide readers with some interesting comparisons and contrasts with respect to those frequencies. encourage readers to make their own analyses -- there is not space for all that might result from such pondering! We tend to focus on the rare and casual species (highlighted) seen only once or a few times; typically they were recorded as single individuals. species upon being analyzed fall into at least four groups in rationalizing their being exceptional: 1) individuals that lingered north of the usual winter range for their species past the usual departure time, 2) individuals of species whose major winter range lies to the north of this area, 3) those eastward-wandering individuals of species that mostly winter to the west, and 4) individuals of species occurring regularly at CBC season, but in such small numbers and/or presenting such difficulties in sighting and identifying them as to be seldom recorded. Readers may test their knowledge of bird distributions by sorting the highlighted species among these four categories before looking at "answers" on the page following the species list.

In some respects, an analysis focusing on the species at 25, or other higher frequencies, is equally informative. This group includes permanent residents and common winter visitors. Several common resident species fall short of 25 because of difficulty in locating them, e.g., the three more common owls. However, others fall short only because of inadequate coverage owing to a small number of observers and/or adverse weather conditions on the count I look at some "gaps" and wonder how the species could have day. Indeed, the data are impaired by the fact that for been missed! the first three years there was only a one-man counting "team." have the Coffeys to thank for helping greatly to remedy that May their further situation over the many subsequent years. birding days be many, but never so dark and wet as on the 1986 Grenada CBC!

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS AT GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI

25-Year Cumulative Species List
(Nos.= Years seen on CBC out of 25)
(Underline=rare/irregular;+boldface=casual)

Common Loon, 11
Pied-bill. Grebe, 16
Horned Grebe, 19
Eared Grebe, 2
Double-cr. Corm., 12
Am. Bittern, 2
Great Blue Heron, 21
Great Egret, 3
<u>Cattle Egret</u> , 1
<u>Grnbacked Heron</u> , 1
Snow Goose, 4
Canada Goose, 12
Wood Duck, 22
Green-winged Teal, 9
Am. Black Duck, 10
Mallard, 23
N. Pintail, 10
Blue-winged Teal, 1
N. Shoveler, 12
Gadwall, 14
Am. Wigeon, 11
Canvasback, 8
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Redhead, 4
Ring-necked Duck, 13
Greater Scaup, 2
Greater Scaup, 2 Lesser Scaup, 15
Oldsquaw, 1
Com. Goldeneye, 7
Bufflehead, 10
Hooded Merganser, 23
Common Merganser, 1
Red-br.Merganser, 5
Ruddy Duck, 17
Ruddy Duck, 17
Black Vulture, 5
Turkey Vulture, 17
Osprey, 1
Bald Eagle, 15
Bald Eagle, 15 N. Harrier, 25
N. Halliel, 25
Sharp-sh. Hawk, 10 Cooper's Hawk, 7
Cooper's Hawk, 7
Red-should. Hawk, 14
Red-tailed Hawk, 25
Rough-legged Hawk, 1
Nought Tegged Hawk, I
Am. Kestrel, 24
Merlin, 4
Wild Turkey, 2
N. Bobwhite, 25
King Rail, 3
Winginia Dail 1
<u>Virginia Rail</u> , 1

Am. Coot, 9
Villdoor 24
Killdeer, 24
Mountain Plover, 1
Gr. Yellowlegs, 5
Spotted Sandpiper, 1
Western Sandpiper, 2
Least Sandpiper, 7
Dunlin, 6
Common Snipe, 23
Am. Woodcock, 9
Little Gull, 1
Com. Blkhd.Gull, 1
Bonaparte's Gull, 22
Ring-billed Gull, 25
Herring Gull, 19
Forster's Tern, 6
Rock Dove, 18
Mourning Dove, 25
Com. Ground-Dove, 1
Com. Barn Owl, 1
E. Screech-Owl, 18
Great Horned Owl, 19
Barred Owl, 19
Short-eared Owl, 9
B. Kingfisher, 23
Red-hd.Woodpecker,22
Red-bel.Wdpecker, 25
Yel-bel.Sapsucker,23
Downy Woodpecker, 25
Hairy Woodpecker, 25
N. Flicker, 25
Pileated Wdpecker, 25
E. Phoebe, 22
Horned Lark, 19
Blue Jay, 25
Am. Crow, 25
Fish Crow, 10
Ca. Chickadee, 25
Tufted Titmouse, 25
Red-br. Nuthatch, 14
Whtbr.Nuthatch, 13
Brnhd.Nuthatch, 21
Brown Creeper, 23
Gold-cr.Kinglet, 25
Ruby-cr.Kinglet, 25
Carolina Wren, 25
Bewick's Wren, 10
House Wren, 11 Winter Wren, 23
Winter Wren 23

Sedge Wren, 5		
Marsh Wren, 9		
Eastern Bluebird,	2	5
Mountain Bluebird,		
Hermit Thrush, 24		_
the contract of the contract o		
Am. Robin, 25		
N. Mockingbird, 25	•	
Brown Thrasher, 25	,	
Am. Pipit, 11		
Cedar Waxwing,	2	4
Loggerhd. Shrike,		
Eur. Starling, 25	٠	٠
Colitania Vince	1	^
Solitary Vireo,		0
Orange-cr.Warbler,		
Yelrump.Warbler,		
Yelthr. Warbler,		1
Pine Warbler, 23		
Blk-&-Wht.Warbler,		1
Com. Yellowthroat,		1
M Candinal		5
N. Cardinal,		
Rufsided Towhee,		
Am. Tree Sparrow,		
Chipping Sparrow,	1.	1
Field Sparrow,		5
Vesper Sparrow, 12		
Savannah Sparrow,	2	5
LeConte's Sparr.,		8
Econice a spair.,	-	O
Fox Sparrow, 25		
Song Sparrow, 25		
Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow,		2
Swamp Sparrow	2	_
bwamp bparrow,		5
Whtthr.Sparrow,		
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow.	2	5
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow, Dark-eved Junco	2	5 6
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco,	2 1 2	5 6 5
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur,	2 1 2 7	5 6 5
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Red-w. Blackbird,	2 1 2	5 6 5
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Red-w. Blackbird, E. Meadowlark, 25	2 1 2 7 2	5 6 5 5
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Red-w. Blackbird, E. Meadowlark, 25	2 1 2 7 2	5 6 5 5
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Red-w. Blackbird, E. Meadowlark, 25 Rusty Blackbird, Brewer's Blkbrd.	2 1 2 7 2	5 6 5 5
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Red-w. Blackbird, E. Meadowlark, 25 Rusty Blackbird, 2 Brewer's Blkbrd., Common Grackle,	2 1 2 7 2 3 1	5 6 5 5 2
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Red-w. Blackbird, E. Meadowlark, 25 Rusty Blackbird, 2 Brewer's Blkbrd., Common Grackle,	2 1 2 7 2 3 1 2	5 6 5 5 2 5
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Red-w. Blackbird, E. Meadowlark, 25 Rusty Blackbird, 2 Brewer's Blkbrd., Common Grackle, Brn-head.Cowbird,	2 1 2 7 2 3 1	5 6 5 5 2 5
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Red-w. Blackbird, E. Meadowlark, 25 Rusty Blackbird, 2 Brewer's Blkbrd., Common Grackle, Brn-head.Cowbird, Purple Finch, 19	2 1 2 7 2 3 1 2	5 6 5 5 2 5
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Red-w. Blackbird, E. Meadowlark, 25 Rusty Blackbird, 2 Brewer's Blkbrd., Common Grackle, Brn-head.Cowbird, Purple Finch, 19	2 1 2 7 2 3 1 2	5 6 5 5 2 5
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Red-w. Blackbird, E. Meadowlark, 25 Rusty Blackbird, 2 Brewer's Blkbrd., Common Grackle, Brn-head.Cowbird, Purple Finch, 19 House Finch, 3 Pine Siskin. 13	2 1 2 7 2 3 1 2	5 6 5 5 2 5
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Red-w. Blackbird, E. Meadowlark, 25 Rusty Blackbird, 2 Brewer's Blkbrd., Common Grackle, Brn-head.Cowbird, Purple Finch, 19 House Finch, 3 Pine Siskin, 13 Am. Goldfinch, 25	2 1 2 7 2 3 1 2	5 6 5 5 2 5
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Red-w. Blackbird, E. Meadowlark, 25 Rusty Blackbird, Brewer's Blkbrd., Common Grackle, Brn-head.Cowbird, Purple Finch, 19 House Finch, 3 Pine Siskin, 13 Am. Goldfinch, 25 Evening Grosbeak,	2 1 2 7 2 3 1 2	5 6 5 5 2 5
Whtthr.Sparrow, Whtcr.Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, Red-w. Blackbird, E. Meadowlark, 25 Rusty Blackbird, 2 Brewer's Blkbrd., Common Grackle, Brn-head.Cowbird, Purple Finch, 19 House Finch, 3 Pine Siskin, 13 Am. Goldfinch, 25	21272 3122	5 6 5 5 2 5

Categories of Species Seldom Recorded (< 20%) on Grenada, MS CBC

A. Late lingerers north of usual wintering range:

American Bittern, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, Green-backed Heron, Blue-winged Teal, Osprey, Virginia Rail, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Yellow-throated Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, Common Yellowthroat.

B. Species occurring at or beyond the southern limit of their major winter range:

Oldsquaw, Common Merganser, Rough-legged Hawk, Little Gull*, Black-headed Gull*, American Tree Sparrow, Evening Grosbeak.

Species rare over all of North America

C. Species wandering east of their major wintering range:

Eared Grebe, Mountain Plover*, Mountain Bluebird*, Common Ground-Dove [Winter specimens from Rosedale in northern MS were identified as the southwestern race].

*The first of their species to be reported for MS

D. Species that occur regularly but are seldom reported because of the great difficulty in locating and/or identifying them:

Greater Scaup, Common Barn-Owl, Lincoln's Sparrow

Recent Medical Literature--More on Surviving Lightning Risks in the Outdoors

[At least one reader appreciated an earlier item on dealing with lightning-struck persons in the field, so here is some more on the subject.] A recent (24 Oct.'92) book review in <u>Brit. Med.</u>
<u>Journal</u> dealt with "Lightning Injuries," published by CRC Press, 1992 (195 pp.). To reiterate the message of an earlier item in the MOS Newsletter, note that "Loss of consciousness is very common, though fixed and dilated pupils after a lightning strike do not necessarily imply a poor prognosis;" i.e., prompt resuscitation often restores life and allows full recovery even in cases of breathing. cessation of Commonly-seen complications after accidental high-voltage electrocution are rare in lightning-struck "To be as safe as possible from a lightning strike one should be under 10 years of age, female (and not talking on the telephone), standing on one leg in the polar regions, away from open water, trees, or golf courses, before noon or after 6 p.m., before June or after September" [some pretty tough-to-meet conditions there!]. And "although lightning often strikes the same place more than once, the chance of being killed by lightning (less than one third of all strikes) is about one in a million."

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY Financial Report February to October, 1992

Income and Expense Statement
Income:

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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 1993 dues, or address changes, to the Treasurer.

RETURN ADDRESS: Miss. Ornithol. Soc. P.O. Box 515 University, MS 38677





W H TURCOTTE 240 LOWE CIRCLE RICHLAND MS 39218