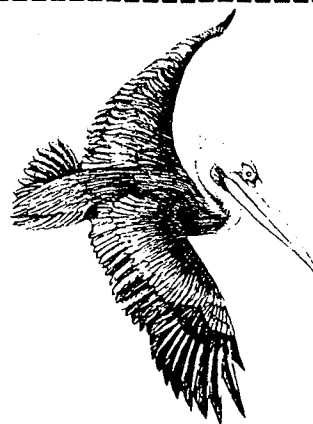

**MISSISSIPPI
ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**

**VOL. 40, No. 1
SPRING (MARCH) 1995**

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**LOOKING AHEAD TO:
1995 SPRING MOS MEETING, APRIL 28-30**

The spring 1995 MOS meeting will be held at Tara Wildlife Management near Vicksburg in Warren County along the Mississippi River levee. Local birders will host a reception on Friday evening, April 28, at Tara [see enclosure]. Saturday, April 29, will be devoted to field trips in the Mississippi River batture lands, around Eagle Lake, Mahannah Wildlife Management Area, and other delta locations. Saturday night we will have a business meeting and banquet. Dr. Daniel J. Twedt of the National Biological Survey will be the guest speaker. He will tell us about the burst of song bird research in the lower Mississippi River valley in the past three years. Sunday morning, April 30, we will have half-day field trips to see all the rarities found on Saturday.

Tara Wildlife Management is about 30 minutes north of Vicksburg. From Vicksburg take Highway 61 north, 1/2 mile north of the Yazoo River turn left on Eagle Lake Road. As you approach Eagle Lake there will be a cotton gin on the left, approximately 1/4 mile past the gin turn left. This road follows the Eagle Lake shoreline. As it leaves the shoreline it becomes gravel, at the Mississippi River levee it turns left. From there it is only about 1 mile to Tara. There are no restaurants nearby, but Tara serves meals: breakfast \$5, lunch \$10, supper \$10 (children 1/2 price). Rooms are \$50 for a single and \$55 for a double. Send in your reservation form (page 11) today!

PARTNERS IN FLIGHT
Allen Mueller, President MOS

"Neotropical Migratory Birds"--new buzz words. (You may be thinking "Should I keep up or let this one pass?" Please keep up, big things are happening!) Neotropical Migratory Birds are the animals that we all know and love; the birds that breed in the temperate zone of North America and winter in the tropics of Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean--warblers, vireos, tanagers, thrushes, hawks, etc.

Many wildlife managers are concerned about the future of this group

of birds. While they are still common, data from the annual Breeding Bird Survey indicate that many of these species are on a long term decline. Action now can prevent these species from becoming endangered and avoid the "emergency room" conservation efforts frequently applied to endangered species.

Habitat changes on the breeding grounds, in the wintering areas, and along the migration routes are all suspected of causing population declines. In breeding areas (that's us, folks), habitat fragmentation is a major suspect. Many species require a certain minimal area of suitable habitat; forest, marsh, or prairie; to maintain a breeding population over the long term. As we break our forests into smaller and smaller pieces, the total forested area may not decline much, but no large blocks of forest remain. So a pair of Wood Thrushes may still be breeding in the 20 acre woodlot next to your house, but in a few years they will likely be gone. It appears that Wood Thrushes need at least a 2,000 acre block of woods to permanently maintain a population. Unless you are near such a forest to continually supply Wood Thrushes to your 20 acre woodlot, your breeding Wood Thrushes are going to disappear.

As you can see habitat fragmentation is a big problem, and it is only one issue that needs addressing--migratory stopover habitat loss and tropical deforestation are two other major problems. Big issues call for big solutions and that is the purpose of Partners In Flight.

Partners In Flight is a comprehensive bird conservation program aimed at reversing declines in Neotropical Migratory Birds. Its goals are to (1) determine the status and specific causes of Neotropical Migratory Bird declines, (2) maintain stable populations, and (3) reverse declining population declines through habitat restoration and enhancement throughout the Americas. Its tools? Population and habitat monitoring, habitat management, research, education, outreach and communication, and international partnerships.

In fact partnerships could be called the central feature of Partners In Flight. Partners In Flight is not another government program, but a partnership unprecedented in scope. It brings together 14 federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management; more than 55 state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies; 34 non-governmental organizations; 15 major forest products companies; and a host of universities, foundations and other organizations. Some of the non-governmental organizations include The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, American Birding Association, and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Partners In Flight operates through a set of regional and technical working groups. The Southeast Working Group has been a leader in defining species priorities, setting habitat goals, and working to get public information and on-the-ground conservation efforts started. Each member organization contributes what it can to meet

the conservation goals defined by the planning framework established through Partners In Flight.

You may have noticed that the Mississippi Ornithological Society is missing from the list of member non-governmental organizations. We can fix this by signing on as a partner. It costs nothing and our support will add to the enthusiasm and momentum Partners In Flight has already generated. We may also wish to support a conservation project that would contribute to Partners In Flight goals. This will be discussing this at the 1995 spring meeting in Vicksburg.

THE WILDLIFE DIVERSITY FUNDING INITIATIVE -- Allan Mueller

Have you ever gone onto a state wildlife management area to do some birding only to find that the entire program seems to be directed toward hunting and fishing? I'll assume the answer is yes. This is frustrating, provides no help in bird finding, and makes you feel like a second class citizen. It is also a symptom of a larger issue, the overwhelming efforts of state game and fish agencies are directed at game and fish. In recent years nongame species have received increased attention, but they are still neglected by comparison.

Many of the leaders and employees of state game and fish agencies would like to devote more attention to nongame species, especially with the growing recognition that ecosystem management needs to replace species management, but they are prevented from changing by simple economics. They are funded mostly with money dedicated to game species: hunting and fishing license fees and federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment (the Pittman-Robertson and Dingle-Johnson funds). These federal excise taxes are collected by the federal government and distributed to the state game and fish agencies to support their routine operations.

The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies launched a campaign in 1994 to establish a similar excise tax on outdoor recreational equipment. Binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, bird seed, bird feeders, camera equipment, and camping gear would be taxed at not more than 5 percent of the wholesale price. This money would be dedicated to wildlife diversity projects, that is all wildlife and ecosystems would be the spending targets, not just game species. Planners project that \$350 million dollars would be distributed to state wildlife diversity programs each year. This would mean a bonanza of birding opportunities, but more importantly a tremendous increase in habitat protection.

This is such a good idea that it is a wonder that it has not been proposed before. Well it has been proposed before, but has been beaten in Congress by manufacturers and other business interests who fear that it would hurt sales. We can fix that by letting those companies know that we, the buying public, support the Wildlife Diversity Tax. This time instead of just writing your congressperson, also write your outdoor equipment supplier. Tell them that this tax is good business. Get out your pencil or crank up your computer, the addresses follow.

Bausch & Lomb Sports Optics
Joseph B. Messner, President
9200 Cody
Overland Park, KS 66214

Houghton Mifflin
Nader Darehshori, CEO
222 Berkeley St.
Boston, MA 02116

Nikon, Inc.
Hidetaka Nakyama, CEO
1300 Walt Whitman Rd.
Melville, NY 11747

Pentax Corporation
Masa Tanaka, President
35 Inverness Dr., E.
Englewood, CO 80112

Leica Camera, Inc.
156 Ludlow Ave.
Northvale, NJ 07647

Cabela's
812 13th Avenue
Sidney, NE 69160

Carl Zeiss Optical, Inc., Karen Lutto, Manager PR Group, Sports
Optics Division, 1015 Commerce, Petersburg, VA 23803

BALD EAGLE NESTING SURVEY UNDERWAY -- Mary Stevens

The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science has received funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Office to survey nesting Bald Eagle sites in Mississippi. Funding will cover the nesting season for 1995 and 1996. The funds will be used for aerial surveys designed to locate each nest and determine the nesting status (active or inactive). In addition to the aerial survey, I am coordinating a ground survey with the help of twelve volunteers. With their help we will be able to monitor nesting activity at twelve known nest sites in Mississippi.

An Eagle Database has been compiled on the history of each nest. The database will be updated each year with observations from the field surveys. Information on the general activity at each nest and the number of young fledged will be included. A summary report of the status of each nesting site will be issued at the end of the nesting season.

As you probably know, there were no known Bald Eagle nests in Mississippi from the early 1950's until 1975. In March of 1975 a pair of Bald Eagles successfully fledged one young from a nest located on the Biloxi River north of I-10. This nesting territory is still active today. It was not until the fall of 1984 that another active Bald Eagle nest was reported in Mississippi, successfully producing one young in the spring of 1985. This Warren County (Eagle Lake) nesting territory is also active today. All of the remaining ten nest sites have been reported to the Museum since 1991.

Obviously, with the increase in nesting activity we would not be able to monitor these nests without the participation of volunteers. If you know of any Bald Eagle nests, please call Mary Stevens at the Museum (354-7303).

Of special note for Jacksonians is the Bald Eagle nest in the Jackson area (Madison County) discovered last winter by Gene Knight of Oxford. The pair fledged one young during their first nesting

season. They were observed back in the nesting territory over the 1994 Thanksgiving weekend. On New Year's Eve, during the CBC one Eagle was observed on the nest, possibly repairing the nest, while the mate perched in a favorite snag tree nearby.

DIRECTIONS FOR OBSERVING THE NEST:

You will need a spotting scope to observe the Eagles at the nest. The nest is located in Madison County in the marsh near the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area off Pipeline Road. It is far enough from the road to be safe from human disturbance, bordered on one side by marsh and by the Pearl River on the other side. Go to Hwy 43; turn North onto West Pipeline Road (gravel road) which is the entrance to the PRWMA; drive to a point on the gravel road where the water/marshy area stops on your right (east); look to the east all the way to the tree line; look for the large dead Y-shaped snag tree which is a favorite Eagle perch. Look to the North of the snag tree for a stick nest in a dead Cypress Tree. That's it!!

LOOKING BACK:

1994-95 MISSISSIPPI CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

BY DAVID KING

The table below gives the unedited data for the fifteen 1994-95 Christmas Bird Counts (CBC's) held in the state of Mississippi this past winter. [Please see page 13 for a site-map.] Refer to the upcoming issue of National Audubon's Field Notes (Vol. 49, #4) for the edited totals. The counts are arranged in the table from south to north. This

allows easy comparison of neighboring counts. The count name abbreviations in the table and the dates held are:

HC = Southern Hancock County CBC on 27 Dec 94,
 JC = Jackson County CBC on 17 Dec 94,
 Hat = Hattiesburg CBC on 31 Dec 94,
 Nat = Natchez CBC on 31 Dec 94,
 CH = Church Hill CBC on 20 Dec 94,
 Vic = Vicksburg CBC on 17 Dec 94,
 Jac = Jackson CBC on 31 Dec 94,
 WC = Washington County (south) CBC on 1 Jan 95,
 Nox = Noxubee N.W.R. CBC on 17 Dec 94,
 Sid = Sidon CBC on 27 Dec 94,
 Gre = Grenada CBC on 20 Dec 94,
 Sum = Sumner CBC on 26 Dec 94,
 SL = Sardis Lake CBC on 23 Dec 94,
 ML = Moon Lake CBC on 26 Dec 94, and
 AL = Arkabutla Lake CBC on 31 Dec 94.

A total of 189 species were found on all the counts. As expected the two coastal counts (Southern Hancock County and Jackson County) had the biggest species totals with both being near the magic 150 mark. It is clear from the table that most of the water bird species and several of the land bird species prefer the coast to the inland portions of the state. Conversely, very few species are noticeably more common in the northern parts of the state than in the southern.

Of the inland counts, Grenada had the highest at 114. This was Grenada's best count ever and the second highest total ever for an inland Mississippi count. Others breaking the 100 mark were Washington County at 104, and Noxubee NWR at 102. Four other counts were close behind with species totals in the 90's. Over a half million total birds were counted. However, about half that number consisted of unidentified blackbirds on the Sidon CBC. All the counts found at least a few species in greater numbers than any of the other Mississippi counts. In addition, most counts found at least one species not found on any of the other counts.

SPECIES NAME	HC	JC	Hat	Nat	CH	Vic	Jac	WC	Nox	Sid	Gre	Sum	SL	ML	AL
Red-throated Loon	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Common Loon	10	100	.	.	.	.	22	.	.	.	3	.	12	.	1
Pied-billed Grebe	138	58	46	18	.	45	54	40	19	50	6	.	18	16	14
Horned Grebe	100	27	1	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	5	.	21	10	2
Eared Grebe	1	25	25	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Northern Gannet	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
American White Pelican	CW	CW	.	.	.	17	127	.	.	.	127	.	.	.	133
Brown Pelican	36	268	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Double-crested Cormorant	68	269	2	1834	.	643	278	2510	573	2000	95	18	1100	21	.
Anhinga	3	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
American Bittern	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Great Blue Heron	61	89	22	36	9	67	57	297	38	250	458	168	132	12	449
Great Egret	71	67	4	57	2	35	111	152	.	20	2	.	.	.	.
Snowy Egret	225	58	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Little Blue Heron	41	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Tricolored Heron	59	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cattle Egret	1	.	.	1	3	12	.	14	36	4	.	.	.	.	.
Black-crowned Nt.-Heron	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Yellow-crowned Nt-Hern	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
night-heron sp.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
White Ibis	771	11	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Plegadis sp.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Gr White-fronted Goose	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6404	.	.	.	.	38	.	.
Snow Goose	7	16	.	.	.	.	.	17894	.	.	.	3500	4	.	.
white phase	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	13421	.	.	.	.	2	.	.
blue phase	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4473	.	.	.	.	2	.	.
Canada Goose	.	240	.	.	.	72	195	279	610	10	56	172	2128	4	93
Wood Duck	305	15	12	102	4	28	14	125	134	10	21	309	10	3	6
Green-winged Teal	285	85	6	1	.	.	19	426	93	20	6	75	2200	56	.
Am. Black Duck	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	2	.	34	2	78	1	.
Mottled Duck	154	86	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Mallard	126	52	35	941	65	72	326	5622	1125	1150	336	1365	4531	802	1149
N. Pintail	1	.	.	.	.	2	1	77	24	8	119	19	1	.	75
Blue-winged Teal	86	316	.	.	.	.	.	6	15	1	2	.	.	.	.
N. Shoveler	17	424	403	1	.	26	45	1726	40	800	285	121	3	23	922
Gadwall	3	86	5	1	.	42	108	619	169	200	218	37	49	823	4
Am. Wigeon	2	2	.	.	.	1	11	341	349	20	3	60	1188	68	.
Canvasback	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	60	3	150	.	.	.	20	266
Redhead	21	3	.	.	.	.	.	10	14	.	3	7	.	.	.
Ring-necked Duck	206	148	604	100	.	6	85	89	825	20	440	18	6	23	.
Lesser Scaup	227	6	150	101	.	3	40	292	32	100	127	3	1	24	74
scaup sp.	.	46	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Oldsquaw	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Common Goldeneye	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	16
Bufflehead	221	139	7	.	.	.	64	176	20	.	25	.	2	4	421
Hooded Merganser	14	83	450	23	.	31	1585	20	2063	15	50	36	179	2	384
Common Merganser	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Red-breasted Merganser	8	57	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	CW	.
Ruddy Duck	115	540	850	300	.	.	167	1190	.	1500	47	54	20	.	378
duck sp.	.	.	.	.	2	17	.	.	.	5000	.	4000	200	.	.
Black Vulture	14	3	17	22	13	47	92	.	100	.	.	.	17	.	.
Turkey Vulture	158	.	37	34	23	61	5	.	105	2	13	.	49	.	.
Osprey	1	12	.	1	.	3	.	.	.	.	CW	CW	.	.	.
Mississippi Kite	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bald Eagle	5	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	4	.	14	.	10	.	.
adult	3	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	2	.	5	.	7	.	.

immature	2	.	.	.	.	.	0	.	2	.	9	.	3	.	.
N. Harrier	12	18	2	2	.	17	6	20	3	16	11	10	18	7	12
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	2	1	1	.	3	3	CW	1	1	.	.	4	.	.
Cooper's Hawk	2	4	CW	3	2	1	.	2	3	CW	1	.	.	1	.
Accipiter sp.	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	1	.	.	.
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	3	7	2	6	8	6	1	11	1	8	.	8	.	1
Red-tailed Hawk	33	17	13	42	14	77	39	50	30	30	44	27	25	21	60
Buteo sp.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Golden Eagle	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
American Kestrel	20	11	18	26	3	21	7	72	15	35	6	15	13	6	22
Merlin	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Peregrine Falcon	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wild Turkey	.	.	.	.	.	22	.	.	14	.	.	.	.	.	.
N. Bobwhite	1	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	5	1	3	.	.	.	9
Clapper Rail	12	39	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
King Rail	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Virginia Rail	4	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	4	.	.	.	.
Sora	3	50	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	3	.	.	.	.
Common Moorhen	38	11	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
American Coot	3003	434	602	114	.	.	1034	1925	678	60	12	512	CW	106	.
Sandhill Crane	.	62	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	CW	CW	.	.	.	.
Black-bellied Plover	45	55	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Snowy Plover	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Semipalmated Plover	3	18	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Piping Plover	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Killdeer	104	148	64	88	65	1418	223	389	4	100	172	160	98	149	71
Am. Oystercatcher	.	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Black-necked Stilt	.	17	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Greater Yellowlegs	7	16	.	.	1	22	.	1	.	.	12	.	.	8	1
Lesser Yellowlegs	CW	7	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Willet	1	68	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Spotted Sandpiper	.	2	12	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ruddy Turnstone	1	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Red Knot	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sanderling	60	76	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
W. Sandpiper	1	27	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Least Sandpiper	15	44	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6	.	7	.	.
Dunlin	350	626	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	24	.	.
peep sp.	.	311	.	.	.	.	.	200	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Short-billed Dowitcher	70	24	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Long-billed Dowitcher	.	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
dowitcher sp.	.	50	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Common Snipe	322	56	2	2	.	.	.	2	CW	13	12	.	4	.	3
Am. Woodcock	2	1	.	.	.	1	2	1	8	.	3	.	1	.	2
Laughing Gull	105	847	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bonaparte's Gull	3	52	1	50	.	26	57	74	.	.	75	.	498	22	307
Ring-billed Gull	26	167	2	20	.	75	197	828	1	1	614	1	239	51	218
Herring Gull	4	140	.	2	.	.	1	25	.	.	9	.	6	.	1
Black-legged Kittiwake	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
gull sp.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6	.	.	.	.	.
Caspian Tern	21	79	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Royal Tern	45	142	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Forster's Tern	105	127	3	52	.	75	49	16	.	.	17	.	17	.	.
Black Skimmer	30	400	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Rock Dove	50	171	140	65	2	420	62	62	48	40	12	78	CW	38	60
Mourning Dove	117	603	291	232	2	402	173	227	274	150	402	43	154	115	335
Common Barn-Owl	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
E. Screech-Owl	6	5	1	.	.	5	1	6	11	1	7	.	5	.	2
Great Horned Owl	7	9	3	1	.	.	5	8	5	2	5	.	CW	1	6
Barred Owl	7	3	1	5	.	11	11	10	11	.	2	6	3	1	3
Short-eared Owl	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Black-chinned Hummingbird	CW	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Anna's Hummingbird	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Rufous Hummingbird	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Selasphorus sp.	1	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Belted Kingfisher	47	35	23	8	2	32	17	6	17	8	17	3	13	6	18
Red-headed Woodpecker	.	3	2	19	1	11	7	3	83	5	9	1	.	1	13
Red-bellied Woodpecker	43	21	75	39	59	138	47	73	117	20	41	5	32	31	88
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	10	6	24	10	12	52	18	21	16	25	19	1	8	4	17
Downy Woodpecker	17	12	12	4	13	58	21	43	31	18	19	6	24	10	29
Hairy Woodpecker	3	2	5	3	1	12	4	4	15	CW	3	.	7	5	7
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.

Northern Flicker	29	32	27	22	3	63	27	38	84	16	58	1	38	17	64
Pileated Woodpecker	7	7	7	6	8	20	10	16	40	5	14	4	7	4	16
Eastern Phoebe	55	20	20	10	12	23	16	30	60	8	25	1	9	4	6
Vermilion Flycatcher	CW	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Horned Lark	.	.	.	.	10	160	.	155	.	120	6	51	1	103	19
Tree Swallow	4096	3046	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Blue Jay	117	176	64	108	73	209	122	126	93	25	93	6	70	43	194
American Crow	110	75	63	99	569	249	173	.	305	5	257	.	152	.	78
Fish Crow	103	22	22	.	6	2	3	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.
crow sp.	95	130	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Carolina Chickadee	129	57	137	78	66	171	81	113	136	40	112	10	63	19	145
Tufted Titmouse	116	48	85	36	22	128	39	40	80	18	54	CW	64	4	58
Red-breasted Nuthatch	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	7	.	2	.	11	.	3
Brown-headed Nuthatch	77	58	45	.	.	.	13	.	30	.	4	.	5	.	.
Brown Creeper	.	.	CW	.	2	.	2	2	10	1	6	.	4	2	9
Carolina Wren	70	38	54	46	19	129	66	70	120	18	54	4	41	19	137
House Wren	44	18	1	1	1	1	.	3	2	1	7	.	1	.	1
Winter Wren	1	.	.	.	.	3	4	.	21	.	19	.	4	3	4
Sedge Wren	12	22	.	.	.	.	6	1	12	.	4	.	1	.	.
Marsh Wren	16	27	2	.	.	.	6	5	4	.	2	.	.	.	.
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5	3	12	2	2	16	7	4	125	2	54	1	29	4	38
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	269	44	69	4	39	125	33	81	161	40	128	3	21	10	39
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	24	6	3	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Eastern Bluebird	79	87	144	119	68	115	117	59	66	30	86	13	130	28	229
Hermit Thrush	8	4	4	1	21	42	25	22	22	6	26	.	7	1	10
American Robin	483	1050	325	362	56	191	1451	123	162	25	107	26	53	53	102
Gray Catbird	27	12	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
N. Mockingbird	89	63	74	51	8	.	69	40	19	25	29	11	18	31	64
Brown Thrasher	25	38	14	8	7	24	17	7	14	9	14	.	5	2	2
American Pipit	43	23	67	.	.	3	.	31	19	26	28	6	30	17	1
Sprague's Pipit	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Cedar Waxwing	1	10	156	108	.	603	233	58	53	10	3	.	22	.	35
Loggerhead Shrike	47	19	15	28	1	38	36	47	9	15	5	18	10	11	13
Eur. Starling	307	608	134	445	203	371	2839	2550	180	250	460	1875	63	648	1227
White-eyed Vireo	3	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Solitary Vireo	15	8	7	.	1	4	3	.	7	.	6	.	1	.	.
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Orange-crowned Warbler	25	2	4	.	.	.	2	1	.	.	3	.	.	.	.
Yellow-rumped Warbler	10056	648	359	154	209	538	173	109	49	30	70	2	88	24	77
Yellow-throated Warbler	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Pine Warbler	488	92	58	1	17	5	31	13	181	8	81	.	16	2	3
Palm Warbler	47	48	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Common Yellowthroat	31	10	2	1	1	.	3	3	5	1	6	1	.	.	.
N. Cardinal	73	49	187	127	128	363	156	385	223	60	84	46	86	42	254
Rufous-sided Towhee	68	41	63	16	17	43	42	6	61	8	46	.	24	1	21
Bachman's Sparrow	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Chipping Sparrow	25	7	51	6	45	323	40	29	22	1	5	.	119	.	22
Field Sparrow	.	11	5	3	32	38	51	35	20	16	151	4	117	16	44
Vesper Sparrow	3	8	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	37	.
Lark Sparrow	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Savannah Sparrow	173	219	15	136	.	155	12	55	27	60	114	15	85	14	39
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	.	1	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Leconte's Sparrow	.	2	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	1	.	.
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	.	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Seaside Sparrow	1	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Fox Sparrow	.	.	1	1	1	2	.	2	1	.	9	.	5	1	9
Song Sparrow	124	84	14	47	10	135	51	73	159	30	157	64	189	24	119
Lincoln's Sparrow	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Swamp Sparrow	275	179	13	26	3	43	8	216	138	18	93	.	87	10	33
White-throated Sparrow	71	79	99	193	116	738	129	243	203	125	105	15	157	44	253
White-crowned Sparrow	.	1	1	26	.	5	.	44	6	40	2	95	.	32	60
sparrow sp.	.	.	.	90	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dark-eyed Junco	.	6	26	50	33	158	49	66	49	2	136	.	308	32	278
Lapland Longspur	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	1
Red-winged Blackbird	1399	2036	164	1139	273	198	1285	1985	1305	3000	1808	2800	1850	171	1883
E. Meadowlark	197	259	90	58	59	80	58	475	119	50	170	4	124	59	118
Rusty Blackbird	.	1	.	.	.	1	2	3	100	.	3	2	CW	.	.
Brewer's Blackbird	15	.	15	170	.	.	3	.	2090	2	335	8	50	.	.
Boat-tailed Grackle	39	97	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Common Grackle	114	202	111	105	1012	1440	2354	18344	6311	15000	10190	3000	2042	84	1312
Brown-headed Cowbird	55	71	55	257	.	475	96	166	155	2000	294	.	3	72	675
blackbird sp.	37	.	1318	3635	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3000	.	.	.

blackbird sp.															250000
Purple Finch	.	.	.	.	.	.	21	10	1	.	1	.	.	.	.
House Finch	.	6	66	74	.	26	13	2	6	.	2	4	7	70	83
Am. Goldfinch	431	29	24	39	158	92	140	28	96	30	135	2	59	25	55
House Sparrow	4	10	15	84	2	229	8	112	72	100	70	148	7	284	70

NAME	HC	JC	Hat	Nat	CH	Vic	Jac	WC	Nox	Sid	Gre	Sum	SL	ML	AL
TOTAL SPECIES	147	145	96	85	60	96	96	104	102	87	114	64	98	80	87
TOTAL BIRDS	9118		8305		3617		15528		15361		20469		19495		13578
		18379		12342		12594		86378		284292		22111		4566	
NUMBER OBSERVERS	17	.	.	6	4	18	23	18	25	11	13	4	14	4	10
PARTIES	7-9	.	.	4	2	.	.	6	9	.	5+	1-2	6-7	1	4
PARTY HOURS	161	.	.	37	17	58	.	50	74	.	48	15	54	11	38
NAME	HC	JC	Hat	Nat	CH	Vic	Jac	WC	Nox	Sid	Gre	Sum	SL	ML	AL

Calling Attention to:

"Habitat Use by Landbird Migrants in Relation to Military Training"

is the title of a new research project of Dr. Frank Moore, ornithologist in the Dept. of Biological Sciences at the Univ. of Southern Miss., supported by a research grant of \$57,420 from U.S. Army, Camp Shelby, MS. [Sept.'94]

"Chenier Study--Migrating Birds and Defoliating Insects" is another research grant-supported project of Dr. Moore; support is \$5,000 from the Houston Audubon Society.

"Mid-South Refuges Get More Land"

A Memphis Commercial-Appeal story of 14 September indicated that four National Wildlife Refuges were approved for an 8,800-acre expansion: in Mississippi, St. Catherine's Creek, Morgan Brake and Dahomey (Bolivar Co. near Cleveland--260 acres), plus Holla Bend NWR in west-central Arkansas.

Interesting Sightings from the Ornithological Literature

"Feeder access: Deceptive use of alarm calls by a White-breasted Nuthatch." A droll observation was reported in this technical note in the September '94 issue of Wilson Bulletin, vol. 106, p.573. Elliot Tramer of the Dept. of Biology at Univ. of Toledo reported observations at six-perch seed feeders in his yard at Waterville, Ohio during three winters. In each instance a nuthatch approached the feeder that was occupied by 3-6 other birds, usually House Finches. Perching 6-10 feet from the feeder, the nuthatch observed the activity at the feeder for several seconds, and then uttered a loud, rapid series of high-pitched "yank-yank" notes seemingly identical to those given upon the approach of a Sharp-shinned or Cooper's hawk in the yard. The birds at the feeder immediately flew from there to shelter in nearby shrubs. Simultaneously, the nuthatch flew directly to the now-unoccupied feeder and began taking seeds. This behavior was observed infrequently--perhaps eight times in more than fifty hours of observations; most times the nuthatches would fly to the feeder and attempt to displace an occupant.

Has anyone among our readers witnessed such a "lying, crafty" nuthatch (anthropomorphically speaking!) in their yard? If House Finches continue increasing their attempts to monopolize seed feeders, it may indeed require some "tricks" on the part of other species for them to gain a share of the "treats"

GOOD NEWS TIME! From the Feb.'95 Ornithological Newsletter, "A record number of singing males of the Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica*

kirtlandii) were counted in June 1994: 663"!

WE NEED PUBLICITY!!!--by Marion Schiefer

At the board meeting on January 14, we discussed the need for a person to act as Publicity Chairman for our organization. So we're looking for a dedicated volunteer to fill this need. Board members had some good suggestions of some things that can be done to get the word out around the state about our organization, but we need someone who will TAKE CHARGE and actually get some things done. One idea was to work with MOS members around the state and plan field trips in different areas and get something in the local newspapers about the trips. Another idea was to talk to the Mississippi ETV and try to get some spots on the MISSISSIPPI OUTDOORS program that comes on each week. There are a lot of people in our state who are interested in birds but don't even know our organization exists. WE NEED TO REACH THEM. So if this sounds like something you would enjoy doing to help us promote the MOS, please give me a call at 324-3748.

THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR ON--News of Members: I haven't had any submitted that was fit to print. [Nor any unfit!] Thus, a proposed column of our Newsletter must close again sans even a feeble sample of a great potential(?) for the feature. *Please Communicate!*

MOS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE -- VACANCY NEEDS FILLING

The MOS Bird Records Committee is looking for a fifth member to fill the vacancy that will be left by Dwight Cooley when he moves to Virginia. Prospective members should have a demonstrated expertise in field identification and knowledge of the birds of this region. Responsibilities of members include reviewing records of unusual birds in the state and attending one annual meeting of the committee. Most business will be conducted by mail. If you are interested in serving on the committee or have questions about the responsibilities involved, please contact Terry Schiefer as soon as possible (1394 P.D. Fulgham Rd., Starkville, MS 39759; 324-3748).

ATTENTION -- MOS MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

The MOS is in the process of updating its membership directory. All member's addresses will be listed unless you specifically tell us that you do not wish to be listed. If your phone number was listed in the last (1992) directory, it will be listed in the current one as well. If your number was not listed in the last directory or if you are uncertain whether it was listed or not, please send it to us. The MOS directory is the main way MOS members have of keeping in touch; make sure you can be found when someone locates an Ivory-billed Woodpecker! [Please respond on the top of the next page]

Please fill out the form below and mail it to Marion Schiefer by March 31st (1394 P.D. Fulgham Rd., Starkville, MS 39759).

DIRECTORY

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Office) _____

For the following two sentences, fill in the letter that best completes them. Unless you indicate otherwise we will list the same choices you made in the last directory--REMEMBER?.

- I can guide visiting birders in my area _____.
- A - almost any time of the week or year with advanced notice.
 - B - only on weekends by arrangement.
 - C - occasionally if arranged far enough in advance.
 - D - I cannot guide visiting birders.

- I can answer inquiries about birding in my area _____.
- A - by letter.
 - B - by phone.
 - C - either by letter or by phone.
 - D - I cannot answer inquiries.

1995 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE!

Please detach and mail this form with indicated information and check

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

MEMBERSHIP: NEW RENEWAL

MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

Regular\$10.00 Student

Family\$15.00 or Golden Year ...\$5.00

Sustaining\$20.00

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Mississippi Ornithological Society, or MOS

MAIL TO: Janet Dubuisson, 22410 Glad Acres, Pass Christian, MS39571

1995 MOS MTG. RESERVATION FORM:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Registration Fee \$5.00 _____

Lodging: Single \$50.00/night _____

Double \$55.00/night _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please complete and send to: Allan J. Mueller

4308 Shenandoah Road

Vicksburg, MS 39180

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS OF MOS:

Robert Hale, Jr.
Mississippi State, MS

Dennis D. Welch
Grenada, MS

Don McKee
Moss Point, MS

Frances Dalton
Corinth, MS

Dr. Frank T. Dalton & Family
Corinth, MS

Leroy & Betty Duckworth
Jackson, MS

Mary Neel Gardner
Tupelo, MS

Barbara B. Hamilton
Iuka, MS

Ed & Hilda Hands
Vicksburg, MS

Robert C. Leake
Tupelo, MS

Amy B. Parish
Jackson, MS

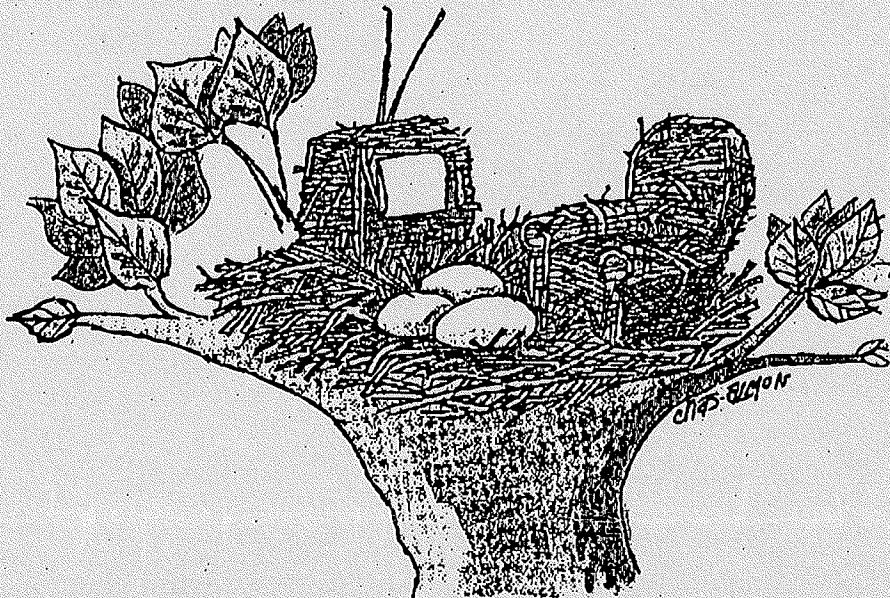
Don Thompson
Belmont, MS

Lowell & Elaine Flynn
Iuka, MS

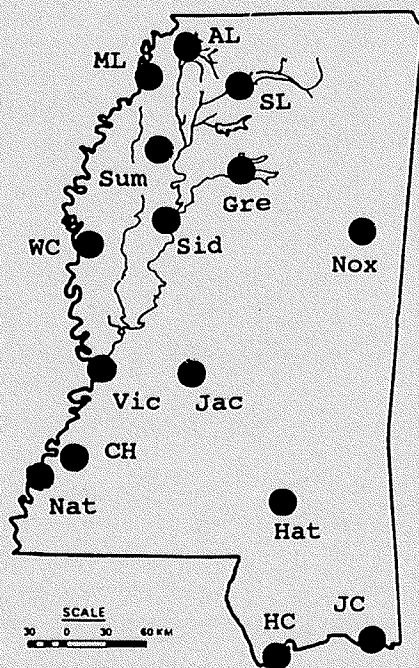
[If there should be any misspelled names, Heaven forbid, please forgive; Ed. isn't accustomed to Sec'ys. handwriting!]

**A New Method for Distinguishing between "Real"
Extralimitals [from Eurasia, say] and "Escapes"
Raised in Captivity--Check Their Nests!**

(from *Natural History*, Feb. '95):



*The nest led researchers to believe the birds
had been raised in captivity.*



Sites of Mississippi
Christmas Bird Counts

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Organized 30 April 1955

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Vicksburg, MS 39180

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All persons interested in Mississippi bird life are invited to join the MOS. Annual dues: Sustaining, \$20; Individual (regular), \$10; Family, \$15; Student, \$5; Senior, \$5; Subscribing, \$10. Life Membership, \$200. All classes of members receive the Mississippi Kite semi-annually, and the MOS Newsletter on a quarterly schedule each season. Please send unpaid '94 dues, '95 dues or new address, to: Janet Dubuisson, 22410 Glad Acres, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

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



MISS MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENC
LIBRARY
111 N JEFFERSON ST
JACKSON MS 39202

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:
Program for '95 Spring Meeting
Reports on '94-95 Christmas Bird Counts
President's Messages