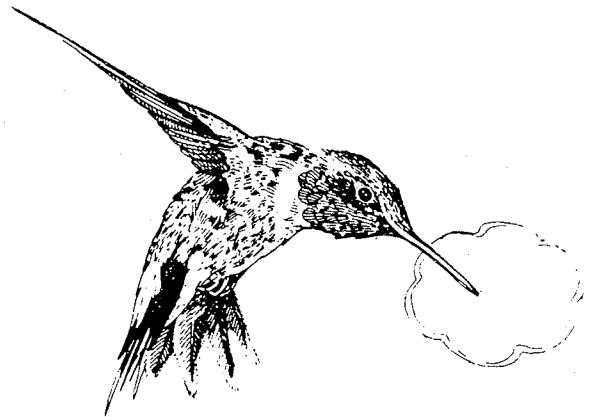

**MISSISSIPPI
ORNITHOLOGICAL
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NEWSLETTER**

**VOL. 40, No. 3
FALL (SEPTEMBER) 1995**

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LOOKING AHEAD: FALL MEETING 1995

LEROY PERCY STATE PARK, the site of our 22-24 September '95 MOS meeting, is not only a fine birding park, but also is conveniently near the Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge in southern Washington County. There also is nearby access to the Mississippi River levee and to Lake Washington, a Mississippi R. cutoff, which has a paved road all way around. The State Park is best reached from the north or south via US 61 to Hollandale, then through town on MS 12 westward several miles to State Park entrance on the right (north). From the east you may get on MS 12 off I-55 at the Durant exit and take it west to Hollandale.

Recently, the Cox Ponds area of the Yazoo NWR has been a good spot for shorebirds/herons/White Ibis, and it should still be so when MOSers arrive in September. Unfortunately, we can't assure the return of a *Roseate Spoonbill* that made a one-day appearance in early August. But perhaps some more will arrive! Maybe some *Wood Storks* will still be present along the Mississippi levee. There also should be plenty of teal present; we can try to repeat the spotting of a very rare in Mississippi *Cinnamon Teal*, as has been done there twice before.

On **Friday night** we will have a strictly informal social gathering at the State Park dining hall, which is reserved for MOS from 5:00 to 8:30; some snacky foods and cold drinks will be provided. The time will allow for sharing of plans re. Saturday field trips, distributing of maps, and briefing on recent sightings. Photo-birders are invited to bring bird slides procured since our last "showtime" a couple of year's ago for a volunteers' showing. Please tell Ed Alexander of your intentions; he will provide a Kodak Carousel projector and screen.

The **Saturday evening dinner** will consist of a Mississippi Catfish plate with dessert for a reasonable \$8.50. To be on the dinner list, please call Ed Alexander at (601)332-1655, or drop him a card at 346 S. Gamwyn, Greenville 38701, ASAP, so he can tally the number for the caterer. The after-dinner speaker is James Cummings of Delta Wildlife Foundation who will describe their conservation programs. Other meals will be *ad lib.* for attenders; the State Park offers a noon meal only on Sunday. Otherwise, Hollandale is the nearest source for foods, but don't expect 1st class restaurants (1 cafe, 1 food-gas, 1 food mart). Glen Allan at S end of L. Washington may supply Saturday lunch snacks. Now is the time to go beyond reserving the dates--**22-24 September**--to make an immediate call for reservations at a motel in Greenville (the State Park is full). For a list of motels, names & phone #s, see p.9.

DON'T MISS IT--MAKE THOSE CALLS NOW!!

Spring Meeting, 1996

Location will be held at Forest, MS because of the availability of the nearby Bienville National Forest for having a "Red-Cockaded Weekend," May 3-5, 1996. The after-dinner speaker on Saturday will be Robert McFarlane, biologist and author of A Stillness in the Pines. Margaret Copeland of Starkville, who is in charge of arrangements says, "Pass the word, reserve the dates, see YOU there!"

HUMMINGBIRDS-HUMMINGBIRDS-HUMMINGBIRDS!

Although breeding season is a memory as you receive this issue, the migration season for Hummingbirds is still going strong. Now is the time to be on the lookout for "westerners," mingling with the usual Ruby-throats. Of course, the Coastal "hummerbirders" will have their sport through the Fall and Winter in many cases, so they may be able to "think small" all through the year. But recent years have shown that MOSers living in cities and counties well north of the Coast may also attract and hold a little stranger for much of the winter--as was shown by the story of Ruffie, the male Rufous Hummingbird who stayed near Louisville into early February 1993. From two sources in other states here are some excerpts of interest on hummers.

ALBINISM--A very interesting article on "Occurrence of Albinistic Hummingbirds in Oklahoma" appeared in the June, 1995 issue of Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society. Ellie Womack, a licensed hummingbird bander, compiled information on "pigmenatally-challenged" hummers around Oklahoma, finding 11 occurrences in the past 12 years! This aroused your Newsletter Editor's curiosity as to how many Miss. "hummerbirders" might have observed the same phenomenon in hummers coming to their feeders. Thus, I would hereby solicit letters from anyone with such an observation, indicating by whom seen, the location of the sighting, the date(s) as near as possible, a description of the coloration deficit, and whether the bird might have been photographed. For that matter, I would be happy to receive your notations and descriptions on any albinistic wild bird species, which might permit tabulation and assembly into a report that should be of wide interest.

Categories of pigment deficit, as defined mainly by John K. Terres (1987, Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds, A.A. Knopf, Inc., New York, p.11) are:

Total albinism: the rarest form, in which the bird has a complete absence of melanin pigment from the eyes, skin and feathers.

Incomplete albinism: Pigment is completely absent from either eyes, skin or feathers, but not all three.

Imperfect albinism: Pigment formation is partially inhibited (reduced) in eyes, skin or feathers, but is not totally inhibited in any site.

Partial albinism: The commonest form; complete or partial albinism within a local part of the body, which may involve certain feathers only; it is often symmetrical, and each side of the body may show white feathers in the same pattern.

Schizochroism/Leucism/Dilute form/Pale mutant: All of these terms comprise a condition in which there are one or more pigments absent from the plumage resulting in an abnormally pale, washed-out appearance over the whole body.

[An article by Paul M. McKenzie, "Western Species of Hummingbirds in Missouri--Unlimited Possibilities" is partially highlighted upon urging of Mark Goodman, now of Starkville, who arrived there while still pres. of the Missouri Audubon Society.]

WESTERN SPECIES OF HUMMINGBIRDS

While living in Baton Rouge, LA, Paul McKenzie spent 100s of hours over a 15-year period studying eight species of hummingbirds there. To better spread the word about good plantings for attracting hummers, and to promote recognition of various wandering western species, he organized the Baton Rouge Hummingbird Club. It was a product of this action that all those 8 species (and later 2 more!) were documented in Baton Rouge. When he removed to Columbia, MO, he carried the same strategy into action there. Consequently, there have been a number of non-Ruby throat hummer sightings; at the writing (winter '93-94), confirmation was lagging, but probable records of Rufous, Green Violet-ear, Magnificent/Blue-throated and a confirmed Anna's had accumulated in his 2 Fall seasons of promoting a "hummer watch." [The same Fall Alert effort may be needed in Sept.-Oct. here in Mississippi; currently, most of the reports don't seem to surface until Nov.-Dec.] BE ALERT FOR:

I. **Large** hummer (much larger than Ruby throats) appearing primarily dark beneath with **long bills** and with slower wing beats. They may be:
Blue-throated H.--ad. males have gray underparts, white stripe behind eye; ad. females are similar to males, but lacking the blue throat patch of males; immatures, similar to ad female but males may show a few flecks of blue on the throat.

Magnificent H.--ad. males, blackish-green to blackish-gray underparts with metallic green reflected off throat in correct light, purple crown and all dark tail; ad. females, grayish green underparts with white-tipped tail (nearly identical to the female Blue throats); immatures, similar to females, but males may show a few flecks of green on the throat.

Green Violet-ear--ad. males, dark green underparts with patches of violet-blue on the face and breast and all dark tail; ad. females and immatures, similar to ad. male but duller; species usually appears in summer months.

II. Hummers **only slightly larger** than Ruby throats, may include:

Broad-billed H.--ad. males, dark green to greenish-blue underparts, white undertail coverts, all dark tail, orange bill with black tip; ad. females, dull gray underparts with white line behind eye, all dark tail and bill; immatures are similar to ad. females but often with a few blue or green flecks on throat.

Broad-tailed H.--very similar to Ruby Throats but slightly larger; ad. males, throat patch wine red instead of ruby-red, longer tail, notch in outermost wing feather that produces a constant ring when the bird flies, and some rufous along the edges of the outer tail feathers when the tail is closed at rest; ad. females and immatures, whitish underparts with some rufous or salmon color along the flanks, a few gorget feathers that may reflect wine-red in correct light, rufous in tail, tail tipped with white--more white than in corresponding feathers of similarly-plumaged Rufous or Allen's Hummers.

Anna's H.--ad. males, greenish-gray underparts, rose-pink throat and crown extending onto sides of face, all dark tail lacking any white tips; ad. females and immatures, greenish-gray underparts, white-tipped tail, a few rose-pink flecks may be present on the throat, tail lacking rufous color typical of *Selasphorus* spp.; to the trained eye, this species looks "chunky" in comparison to the common Ruby throat, with a noticeably slower wing beat; calls are distinctive, "tsip, tsip, tsip," louder than the similar calls of the Calliope H.; ad males occasionally sing a variable series of very high pitched, squeaky or scratchy notes, as late as 30 October.

III. Hummers about the same size as Ruby throats, females very similar to female Ruby throat but often with distinctive rufous or salmon wash on the sides and flanks and with rufous at the base of the retrices, especially the outer 3 tail feathers. These include:

Black-chinned H.--ad. males, similar to Ruby throat but throat reflects black and violet instead of ruby-red; ad. females usually inseparable from female Ruby-throats, but tend to have longer bills and dingier underparts; immatures, like ad. females but males may show a few violet flecks on the throat, and lacks visible rufous feathers on sides, flanks, rump, upper tail coverts or tail.

Rufous H.--ad. males, bright rufous on back, flanks and tail, with bright orange-red throat, wings produce a ringing sound less loud than Broad-tailed H.; ad. females, white underparts except for rufous or salmon on sides, rufous in white-tipped tail, often having one to several central tail feathers that reflect orange-red in correct light; immature males similar to ad. females but usually more rufous on the back, upper tail coverts and side of face and with more throat feathers (usually irregularly arranged on the gorget so that a few feathers are not concentrated in the middle) that reflect orange-red; immature females, similar to ad. females but with very little rufous on the sides and there may not be any feathers on throat that reflect orange-red in the correct light.

Allen's H.--ad. male identical to ad. male Rufous H., but back is green not rufous; ad. females and immatures usually not safely separable from Rufous except by subtle measurements of bill length and wing chord, shape of tips of several retrices.

IV. Finally, be alert for a **very tiny** hummer, clearly smaller than the Ruby throats, with a short tail:

Calliope H.--ad. males, short bill and tail, greenish-white underparts, throat streaked with purple-red feathers; ad. females and immatures, whitish underparts except for tinge of rufous along sides, short bill and tail; call notes a light "tsip, tsip, tsip," softer than any other hummer likely to be encountered in Fall.

Discriminating by size is easier the more familiarity you have with the Ruby throats. I and IV should not be not highly difficult.

By mid- to late-October, hummers in north and central Mississippi should be highly suspected of being a western species, as Ruby throats should all be at the Coast, or beyond.

FROM THE FIELD

Black-necked Stilt--A Species on the Move in the Mid-continent

For several years the Black-necked Stilt (BNS) has been known to be a new nesting species in the Delta area of Mississippi, as well as in similar rice-growing areas across the Mississippi River in southeastern Arkansas. For example, this year a parent with several young chicks were seen in July at the former Tipppo fish farm (Tallahatchie Co.) by Gene Knight. There were suggestions of nesting around the Cox Pond area of the Yazoo NWR in southern Washington Co. These nesting areas were intermediate between the coastal nesting sites in Jackson Co. and the surprising site that developed in mid-1980's at Memphis, near the Mississippi River in southwestern Shelby Co.

So what's happening lately? Well, according to recent reports on the Internet, BNSs may have taken another northward jump. They were found this summer further up the Mississippi Valley in extreme south Illinois. Up to 8 adults, and one "fledgling" (?) with 2 apparent parents, were noted in late July. Could this be dispersal from down-river, not local nesting? ILL. birders need to be on lookout in 1996. Multiple stilts at the Lonoke, Arkansas federal fish hatchery in early August raises questions about whether they may be nesting in central Arkansas ricefield habitats also.

Hurricane News

Happily, the Miss. Gulf Coast was not victimized by HC. Erin at the outset of August; but it's being too far east also reduced chances of any storm-borne pelagic birds being brought to the state. However, access via Internet to the Illinois RBA for 11 August revealed that a moribund Sooty Tern was found in Missouri, below Bagnell Dam on 5 Aug. This seems likely to have been a product of Erin. Hurricane Felix should have gratified birders on the east coast with some offshore pelagic birds from the Gulf Stream brought close to their shores.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks: Spring '95

Thanks for Grosbeak responses go to several readers of the MOS Newsletter. Mrs. Darlene Hoar of Oxford described "an exciting six days," from May 3 through 8, when the grosbeaks "ate a lot of sunflower seed, with us filling the feeders twice daily." Beginning with one male at the sunflower feeder on the 3rd, it progressed on the 4th to 3 ad.+ 1 i. males and a resident male Blue Grosbeak at a pole mounted platform and a hanging tube feeder; by the 5th, 2 more males and 3 females had joined the crowd for an all-day feed, along with a local Red-bellied Woodpecker, who failed to intimidate the transients--*au contraire!* But on the 7th and 8th, the invasion tailed off to 3 and 1 grosbeak, respectively, the others having evidently refilled their fat stores to fuel them for the next leg of there northward journey. As with so many stories, the RBGs had never before graced the Hoar family with such a visit--"my husband, Tom [an outdoors writer-Ed.], was not quite convinced of what I'd seen, as he had never seen a Rose-breasted Grosbeak before." [you're treading dangerous ground there, Tom; those sound much like words that I had to eat several times many years ago!--Ed.] A broader report on this unusual spring "shower" of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the Mid-South area is being prepared. Suffice it for now to say that not merely feeders in N. Miss., but also central Alabama, western Tennessee and eastern Arkansas saw extra-heavy, if not wholly unprecedented, but most welcome, RBG action in late April to mid-May.

1995 North American Migration Count--by Marion Hutto Schiefer

Before I actually start with the summary of this year's data for Mississippi, I would like to mention that the Texas state coordinator for NAMC has initiated an effort to **CHANGE THE DATE** for the count from the second Saturday in May to either the first Saturday in May or the last in April for all of the southern states. He has already gained the cooperation of the national coordinator and is asking for input from the compilers in each state in order for a mutually agreeable date to be determined. He makes several arguments for the change in his letter to the state coordinators. He would like to know what the participants in all of the southern states think about a possible change and which of the two weekends they think would be the best choice.

I plan to contact all of the compilers during the next couple of weeks to discuss this issue, but if any of the rest of you would like to voice an opinion on this (or would like a copy of his letter), please call me at 601-324-3748.

On to this year's data now. Six counties reported data for this year's count--- Bolivar, Forrest, Jackson, Lauderdale, Oktibbeha, and Warren. 42 people in these six counties participated in the count. (This number is down from the participants we had both last year and the year before. Part of the problem was the short notice everyone had because of a mixup about who was going to coordinate it. We'll do better next year.) In Bolivar County, Nona Herbert, the compiler, went out by herself to count the birds. In Lauderdale County, Mildred Stennis compiled the report and had one other person to help with the observations. Jackson County came up with only three observers this year and JoRee Pennell put together their report. Here in Oktibbeha County we had six participants with Terry Schiefer gathering and recording the data. Both Warren County and Forrest County did better with 12 and 18 participants, respectively. Hal Moore put together Warren County's report and Sarah Gillespie compiled Forrest County's.

This year Warren County had the highest number of species, reporting 104. Oktibbeha followed closely with 101, then Jackson County with 92, Forrest with 83, Bolivar with 63 and Lauderdale with 38. The total number of species seen in Mississippi on the count day was 170. On a separate page in the newsletter is a list of the species seen, with the first letter of the county in which each was seen. As you can see from the list again this year, most of the birds which only migrate through Mississippi and do not stay to breed here were already through our state. Perhaps we'll find more true migrants for us if the date is changed next year. I'll let everyone know what is decided.

We appreciate everyone's efforts in keeping the migration count going. Even though we did not receive any mailout this year from the national office for the count, I talked to the coordinator a few days before the count, and he assured me that the data is very valuable and is being made available to both the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Biological Service. He has just taken on more than he can handle and is in the process of getting some help in coordinating it all. Nearly every state is participating in the count now, so eventually the data collected is bound to be very useful in analyzing the trends in bird populations. Just like the Christmas bird count, it's a fun way to spend a day and it's rewarding to know that we're helping in the accumulation of data that will hopefully some day help the birds we love.

MISSISSIPPI NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT, May 13, 1995

COUNTIES: B=BOLIVAR, F=FORREST, J=JACKSON, L=LAUDERDALE, O=OKTIBBEHA, W=WARREN

AM. WHITE PELICAN	J	W	STILT SAND.	J	LOGGERHD SHRIKE	B	F	J	L	O	W
BROWN PELICAN	J		S-BILL. DOWITCHER	J	EUR. STARLING	B	F	J	L	O	W
D-C. CORMORANT	B	F	L-BILL. DOWITCHER	J	WHITE-EYED VIREO	F				O	W
ANHINGA		W	WILS'. PHALAROPE	J	YEL-THRT VIREO					O	W
GT. BLUE HERON	B	F	LAUGHING GULL	J	WARBLING VIREO	B					
GREAT EGRET	F	J	BONAPARTE'S GULL	J	RED-EYED VIREO	F				O	W
SNOWY EGRET	F	J	HERRING GULL	J	TENNESSEE WARB.						W
LITTLE BLUE HER	J	O	GULL-BILLED TERN	J	NORTHERN PARULA	F				O	W
TRICOLORED HERON	J		CASPIAN TERN	J	YELLOW WARBLER					O	
CATTLE EGRET	B	F	ROYAL TERN	J	CHSTNT-SIDE WARB					O	
GRN-BACK HERON	F	J	FORSTER'S TERN	J	MAGNOLIA WARBLER					O	W
BLK-CRWN NGT HER		W	LEAST TERN	B	YELLOW-RUMP. WARB					L	
YEL-CRWN NGT HER	J		BLACK TERN	J	YELL-THRTD WARB.	F					
FULV. WHIST. DUCK	J		BLACK SKIMMER	J	PINE WARBLER	F				O	W
CANADA GOOSE	B	O	ROCK DOVE	B	PRAIRIE WARBLER	F				O	
WOOD DUCK	B	F	MOURNING DOVE	B	BLK & WHT WARB.					O	W
MOTTLED DUCK	J		YEL-BILL CUCKOO	B	AMER. REDSTART					O	W
MALLARD	B	J	EAST. SCREECH OWL		PROTHONTRY WARB.	F				O	W
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	B	J	GRT. HORNED OWL	F	WORM-EATING WARB.					W	
GADWALL	B		BARRED OWL		SWAINSON'S WARB.					O	W
RING-NECKED DUCK	J		COMMON Nighthawk	F	LOUIS. WATRTHRSH					O	W
GREATER SCAUP	J		CH-WILL'S-WIDOW	F	KENTUCKY WARB.	F				O	W
LESSER SCAUP	B		WHIP-POOR-WILL		COM. YELLOWTHROAT	B	F	J		O	W
HOODED MERGANSER		O	CHIMNEY SWIFT	F	HOODED WARBLER	F				O	W
RUDDY DUCK	J		R-T. HUMMINGBIRD	B	YEL-BRSTED CHAT	B	F			O	W
BLACK VULTURE	F	L	BELT. KINGFISHER	F	SUMMER Tanager	B	F			O	W
TURKEY VULTURE	F	L	RED-HEAD. WOODPKR	B	N. CARDINAL	B	F	J	L	O	W
OSPREY	J	W	RED-BELL. WOODPKR	B	BLUE GROSBEAK	F				O	W
MISSISSIPPI KITE	B	F	DOWNY WOODPECKER	F	INDIGO BUNTING	B	F		L	O	W
BALD EAGLE		W	HAIRY WOODPECKER	F	PAINTED BUNTING	B	J			W	
SHARP-SKIN HAWK		W	RED-COCK'D WOODP		DICKCISSEL	B				O	W
COOPER'S HAWK	F	O	NORTHERN FLICKER	B	RUF-SIDE TOWHEE	F	J	L		O	W
RED-SHOLDR HAWK	F	O	PILEATED WOODPKR	B	BACHMAN'S SPAR.	F					
BROAD-WING HAWK		W	EAST. WOOD PEWEE	F	CHIPPING SPAR.	F				W	
RED-TAILED HAWK	B	F	ACADIAN FLYCTCHR	B	SWAMP SPARROW				L		
AMERICAN KESTREL	F		LEAST FLYCATCHER	B	WHT-THROAT SPAR.	F				W	
PEREGRINE FALCON	J		EASTERN PHOEBE		RED-WNG BLACKBRD	B	F	J	L	O	W
WILD TURKEY	B	F	GT. CRST FLYCTCHR	B	EAST. MEADOWLARK	B	F	J	L	O	W
N. BOB-WHITE	B	F	EASTERN KINGBIRD	B	BOAT-TAIL GRACKL	J					
CLAPPER RAIL	J		HORNED LARK	B	COMMON GRACKLE	B	F	J	L	O	W
KING RAIL		O	PURPLE MARTIN	B	BROWN-HD COWBIRD	B	F	J	L	O	W
SORA		O	TREE SWALLOW	B	ORCHARD ORIOLE	B	F	J		O	W
AMERICAN COOT	J		N. RGH-WNG. SWAL	F	NORTHERN ORIOLE	B	F			W	
BLK-BEL. PLOVER	J		CLIFF SWALLOW		HOUSE FINCH	F			L	O	W
WILSON'S PLOVER	J		BARN SWALLOW	B	AM. GOLDFINCH	J				W	
SEMIPALM. PLOVER	J		BLUE JAY	B	HOUSE SPARROW	B	F	J	L	O	W
KILLDEER	B	F	AMERICAN CROW	B							
BLK-NECKED STILT	B	J	FISH CROW	B							
AM. AVOCET	J		CAR. CHICKADEE	F							
LESSR. YELLOWLEGS	B	J	TUFTED TITMOUSE	B							
SOLITARY SAND.	F		WHT-BRSTD NTHTCH							O	W
WILLET	J		BROWN-HD. NTHTCH	F						O	
SPOTTED SAND.	B	J	CAROLINA WREN	B						F	J
WHIMBREL	J		RUBY-CRWN KINGLET						L		
RUDDY TURNSTONE	J		BLU-GR. GNTCTCHR	F					J	O	W
SANDERLING	J		EASTERN BLUEBIRD	B					F	J	L
SEMIPALM. SAND.	J	O	WOOD THRUSH	F					L	O	W
WESTERN SANDPIPER	J	W	AMERICAN ROBIN	B					F	L	O
LEAST SANDPIPER	B	J	GRAY CATBIRD	J					L	W	
WHT-RUMP. SAND.	J	O	N. MOCKINGBIRD	B					F	J	L
PECTORAL SAND.	B		BROWN THRASHER	B					F	J	L
DUNLIN	B	J	CEDAR WAXWING	F					O	W	

NESTING OF NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD IN AN ARTIFICIAL STRUCTURE

--William H. Turcotte, Richland

On 10 April 1995, a mockingbird was seen at a gourd nailed under the eaves at the peak of a small barn at our place in Richland. The upper front part of the gourd was cut away to comprise a cup meant for use by Barn Swallows that have nested under a bridge nearby. When we left for a European trip on 17 April, the mockingbirds had built a nest in the gourd, and were seen going to and from it.

My brother-in-law, Robert, was working in the back part of our garden and watched the gourd nest almost every day. He saw the adults feeding young in the nest and saw two young of the brood that fledged a day or two before we returned on 12 May. Afterwards, we saw adults feeding at least two flying young. The same pair re-nested in our muscadine arbor and fledged a brood of four young about 20 June 1995.

GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER: DUMP-NESTING OR DOUBLE BROOD?

--William H. Turcotte, Richland

Soon after returning from a trip to Germany and England on 12 May 1995, a pair of Great-crested Flycatchers began to occupy a box at our garden gate. Shortly afterward I noticed that the female was incubating; she would leave the eggs when I approached. While incubation was in progress, another pair was seen around the box, and several times the occupant bird(s) drove away the intruders. About a week later the second pair was nesting in a gourd nailed to a barn about 30 meters from the nesting box. Both females were incubating when the second nest was found.

The first pair began feeding young about a week before the young hatched in the gourd, which was low enough for them to be seen. The brood of the original pair fledged on 21 June, but the adults continued to feed young in the box, which could not be seen. At least two fledglings were seen being fed after 21 June, while vocalizations of young could be heard in both nests. The young in both nests fledged on the same day, 29 June, or 8 days after fledging of the earliest brood. The second pair nesting in the gourd fledged a brood of four young. Dump-nesting, i.e., egg-laying in the nest of another bird of the same species, is a common practice by Wood Ducks. Dump-nesting seems to be the only available explanation for this occurrence of two broods raised by the one pair of Great-crested Flycatchers with such an abnormally short interval.

CAN YOU MATCH THIS LIST OF NESTING SPECIES FOR A FIVE-ACRE AREA?

"For the 1995 nesting season a remarkable number of species were found nesting on our five-acre home place in Richland. They consisted of the following (1 pair each unless indicated otherwise; RN = re-nesting): Killdeer, Mourning Dove (RN), Red-bellied Woodpecker (RN), N. Flicker, Great-crested Flycatcher (2), Purple Martin (7), Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, N. Mockingbird (RN), Brown Thrasher (2, RN) Eastern Bluebird (3, RN), Eur. Starling, Orchard Oriole--13 sp. The oriole nest fledged young, and I watched the adults feeding nestlings on corn ear worms extracted from my sweet corn. I may have to move or quit catering to so many yard birds; I was hit twice on the head by thrashers & dive-bombed by a pair of mockers every time I went in the garden after the 2nd brood fledged." [Gardening is dangerous--it's a jungle out there, folks! Ed. took the liberty of extracting this from Bill T.'s letter]

RESPONSE TO BILL'S CHALLENGE--Add a 4.5-acre chunk of surroundings to the Davises' 0.5-acre place in Oxford, search out all the nests (which we don't have time/energy/patience/skill to do), and one might be able to exceed the Turcottes' fine array of nesting species. Presumed (or known) breeders in those surroundings should include: *Mourning Dove*, *Ruby-throated Hummingbird*, *Red-bellied Woodpecker*, *Downy Woodpecker* (sipper at hummer feeder!), *N. Flicker*, *Great-crested Flycatcher*, *Purple Martin*, *Blue Jay* (egg), *Carolina Chickadee*, *Tufted Titmouse*, *White-breasted Nuthatch*, *Brown-headed Nuthatch* (fledglings), *Ca. Wren*, *Wood Thrush* (2), *Am. Robin* (egg), *Gray Catbird*, *N. Mockingbird*, *Brown Thrasher*, *Yellow-throated Vireo*, *Summer Tanager*, *N. Cardinal* (2+), *Rufous-sided Towhee*, *House Finch* (2+, also sweet toothed!)--23 sp.

HOUSING FOR FALL MOS MEETING--

Greenville, MS Motels:

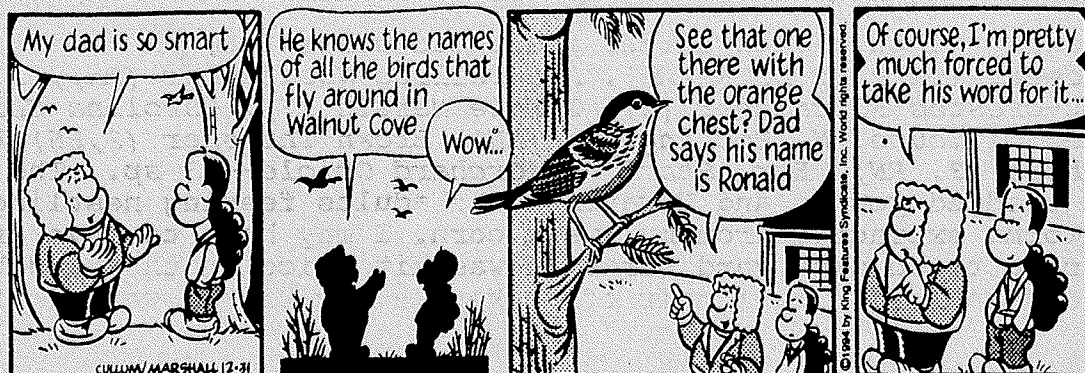
(ca. 30 min from state park)

Comfort Inn (brand new)	378-4976
Best Western	334-6900
Days Inn (former Hol.Inn)	335-1999
Hampton Inn	334-1818
Ramada Inn	332-4411

At Lake Washington:

Mt. Holly Bed and Breakfast 827-2652
(10 min from state park; 5 rooms with private bath, ranging \$65-95 for 2 with "full southern breakfast")

Have YOU invited a friend to join MOS yet this year?



MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Organized 30 April 1955

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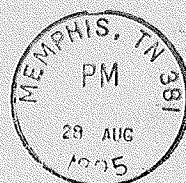
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All persons interested in Mississippi bird life are invited to join the MOS. Annual dues: Sustaining, \$20; Individual (regular), \$10; Family, \$15; Student, \$5; Senior, \$5; Subscribing, \$10. Life Membership, \$200. All classes of members receive the Mississippi Kite semi-annually, and the MOS Newsletter on a quarterly schedule each season. Please send unpaid 1995 dues or new address, to: Janet Dubuissou, 22410 Glad Acres, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

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