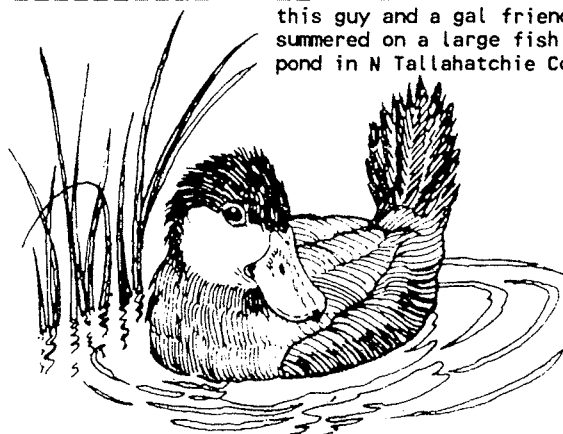


MISSISSIPPI  
ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER

Vol. 41, No. 3  
FALL (SEPTEMBER) 1996

MISS. MUSEUM OF  
NATURAL SCIENCE  
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this guy and a gal friend  
summered on a large fish  
pond in N Tallahatchie Co.

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

**Fall MOS Meeting--OCTOBER 10-12, 1996**

MOS' Fall '96 meeting will be held jointly with the Tennessee Ornithological Society at Crow's Neck Environmental Education Center of the Corps of Engineers' Tombigbee Waterway--Bay Springs Lake--southwest of Tishomingo. Main housing will be in facilities of the Center; details appear below. Send your reservations form (p.2) NOW!

**Agenda for the Joint MOS-TOS Meeting, Fall 1996**

Friday, October 11

7:00 PM Informal reception at Crow's Neck Multi-Purpose Building, with refreshments, hosted by MOS. Arrange Saturday morning field trips.

Saturday, October 12

6:30 AM Breakfast

7:30 AM Field trips start

1:00 PM Lunch

2:00 PM Joint MOS-TOS indoors Papers Session (See below for info on submissions, scheduling)

4:00 PM Fred Baumgartner, Nat'l. Audubon Soc., "Important Bird Areas"

5:00 PM Separate MOS and TOS business meetings

6:00 PM Joint MOS-TOS banquet

7:00 PM Banquet Speaker: Matthew Miller, Director on "Crow's Neck and Environmental Education in Mississippi"

Sunday, October 13

Informal field trips, visiting Sat. "hot spots." Departure ad lib.

**PAPERS SESSION:** DIANE PATTERSON, 195 Autumn Trail, Columbus, MS 39701, is Arrangements Chair for the Papers Session. Please send a brief abstract of presentations to her no later than September 28. She may be reached evenings at 601/327-4777.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

The complete cost for lodging and all meals for the weekend at the Crow's Neck Center is \$110.00 per person. USE reservation form, page 2. Lodging is "bunkhouse" or dormitory style with all linens and towels supplied. A public phone is available in the main building. There are trained personnel who can handle minor health problems.

**ALTERNATIVE LODGING FACILITIES NEARBY ARE:**

DAYS INN MOTEL 601-423-3900  
HWY 25 AT US HWY 72, IUKA, MS 38852

SINGLE \$39.00

APPROXIMATELY 15 MILES FROM CROW'S NECK DOUBLE \$42.00  
[INCLUDES CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST]

VICTORIAN INN 601-423-9221 1-800-839-1662-RESERVATIONS  
199 CIRCLE 180, IUKA, MS 38852  
SINGLE \$46.82 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AVAILABLE  
DOUBLE \$50.14 EACH ROOM HAS MICROWAVE, REFRIGERATOR, ALARM CLOCK,  
ALSO APPROXIMATELY 15 MILES FROM CROW'S NECK

BELMONT HOTEL 601-454-7948  
121 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 140 SINGLE \$35.00  
BELMONT, MS 38927 DOUBLE \$40.00  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AVAILABLE  
APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES FROM CROW'S NECK

CAMPGROUND WITH RV PADS--WATER, SEWAGE AND ELECTRICITY--FOR \$10/NIGHT.  
IT IS THREE MILES SOUTH OF PADEN ON THE WAY TO CROW'S NECK. THE OWNER  
IS JACK PENNINGTON, AT 601-438-6495 OR 601-438-6953; P.O.BOX 164,  
TISHOMINGO 38873.

**NOTE:** TISHOMINGO STATE PARK IS **TOTALLY BOOKED** FOR THAT WEEK-END.

MEALS AT CROW'S NECK FOR THOSE LODGING ELSEWHERE WILL BE AVAILABLE:  
Breakfast, \$5.00; Lunch, \$7.00; Banquet, \$10.00

IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO CALL OR FAX CAROLYN  
JARNAGIN, LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS CO-CHAIR --- HER NUMBERS ARE:  
601-297-5553 HOME  
1-000-289-1869 OFFICE (VOICE MAIL-EQUIPPED)  
601-287-6033 FAX--24 HOURS-A-DAY DEDICATED LINE

CROWS NECK HAS A PONTOON BOAT THAT IS AVAILABLE FOR MOS'ers USE. THERE  
IS NO MINIMUM NUMBER OF PASSENGERS AND A MAXIMUM OF 12. CANOES ARE ALSO  
AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO DO WATER BIRDING CLOSE TO THE SHORES.

(cut here & mail to Carolyn Jarnagin)

**REGISTRATION FORM--MOS FALL MEETING--OCTOBER 10-12, 1996**

Reservations must be received no later than OCTOBER 4TH....PLEASE!! So  
fill this out and mail it **NOW** so you won't forget it.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please make a lodging reservation for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) at \$110.00 each.

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Will not lodge at Crow's Neck, but will require # of meal tickets as  
follows: Sat. breakfast \_\_\_\_\_; Sat. Lunch \_\_\_\_\_; Sat. Banquet \_\_\_\_\_; Sun.  
breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ (see rates above, this page) Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITE CHECK TO: MOS and MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK, NO LATER THAN  
OCT. 2, TO: Carolyn Jarnagin, 1012 Washington St., Corinth, MS 38834**

### **CROW'S NECK SITE AND FACILITIES**

Oak & pine forest, field, marsh, and lake shore comprise the 530 acres of Crow's Neck. The peninsula site is surrounded by 6,600-acre Bay Springs Lake, which supports a diversity of plant and animal species.

#### Residential Facilities:

Four residential cabins available for overnight use by visiting groups offer views of the forest and lake shore. Each cabin can accommodate 28 people in a bunk-style setting. A central common room connecting the sleeping areas has a fireplace and access to a loft area via a spiral staircase. The cabins are built of western red cedar and native stone, with yellow pine floors. All are centrally heated and air conditioned.

#### Wildlife Observation Boardwalk:

This unique structure extends more than 100 feet over a marshy backwater of Bay Springs Lake. It was designed to facilitate wildlife observation/photography. The walls have viewing slits at intervals along its entire length. The boardwalk ends in a glassed gazebo over the lake. The boardwalk and gazebo offer excellent opportunities for wildlife observation.

#### Additional Facilities:

A two-acre activity field, boat ramp, canoe/boat house, and observation platforms round out the facilities. Miles of wooded trails offer hiking opportunities. These trails provide access to various natural areas.

#### **HOW TO GET THERE:**

##### From the South:

Crow's Neck may be reached from Tupelo, MS via either the Natchez Trace Parkway or Rte. 45. Follow the Trace north from Tupelo about 45 miles and then take the Rte. 25-Tishomingo exit. Continue north on Rte. 25 to the town of Tishomingo, about 5 miles. Turn left onto Trace Street at the 4-way stop in Tishomingo. Take Trace Street about 3 miles until it makes a T-intersection with County Roads 961 and 115. Turn left on County Road 115. The Crow's Neck entrance road is about 1/2 mile from the junction.

Using Rte. 45 north from Tupelo to Booneville, MS -- Turn right (east) onto Rte. 30 in Booneville. continue on Rte. 30 about 20 miles to Paden, MS. Take the first right after crossing the Tenn-Tom Waterway bridge. This is County Road 961. Follow County Road 961 about 5 miles to the Crow's Neck entrance road.

Driving time from Tupelo, MS via the Natchez Trace Parkway or Rte. 45 is about 1 hour.

##### From the West:

Take Rte. 72 east from Memphis, TN to Corinth, MS. Continue on Rte. 72 through Corinth to Iuka, MS. Turn south onto Rte. 25 and follow the directions to Crow's Neck.

Driving time from Memphis, TN is about 3 hours.

#### **FOUR OTHER IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

##### **(1) Spring Meeting, 1997--April 25-27th**

Reserve the weekend of 25-27 April 1997 for the Spring '97 MOS meeting on the Gulf Coast. We'll be looking forward to it!

##### **(2) Nominations for 1996-98 Officers -- Marion Schiefer**

Part of the business to be conducted at this fall's meeting will be to elect officers to lead us through 1998. Terry Schiefer, Margaret Copeland and I were asked to be the committee to consider the ones who should be nominated. As a result of our meetings, we present the

following persons as nominees to be officers for the next two years:

President:	Allan Mueller
Vice-President:	Shannon Knight
Secretary:	Carolyn Jarnagin
Treasurer:	Jan Dubuisson

(3) **Fall 1996 North American Migration Count** -- Marion Schiefer  
 The fall migration count is scheduled for Saturday, September 21. I hope that we will have a larger number of MOS birders who can take part this year. The fall migration count date (3rd Sat. in Sept.) is a more appropriate date than the spring count date (2nd Sat. of May) for bird migration in Mississippi. We have a good chance of actually being able to count fairly large numbers of migrants. I will be sending forms to those who have participated in the past few years with either spring or fall counts. If there is anyone else who would like to form a new county-wide count in another county, or who would like more information about the count, please contact me at (601) 324-3748.

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 (4) **BUSINESS ITEM FOR THE OCTOBER MEETING--PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE MOS CONSTITUTION** -- From MOS President, ALLAN MUELLER  
 (Changes are underlined)

Article II - Purpose

1. To encourage scientific research in the field of ornithology and to promote and encourage greater appreciation and conservation of native birds.

Article III - Members

There shall be six classes of membership: Active, Student/Senior, Subscribing, Honorary, Life and Family.

Article IV - Officers

2. Appointed officers shall be the editors of the journal and newsletter. The editors shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Article IX - Amendments

(These changes are only to correct typographical errors)  
 This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at any regular meeting provided the membership has been given 30 days written notice of the proposed change(s) and the time and place of the meeting.

## LOOKING BACK:

### *Good News from Florida*

From the June 1996 *Ornithological Newsletter*, a report that the pair of 4-year old Whooping Cranes released on Florida's Kissimmee Prairie 3.5 years ago have built a nest and defended territory. Never before have captive-reared Whooping Cranes bred after release into the wild. The establishment of a viable Florida population would add to the considerable success of decades-long efforts to rescue the Whooping Cranes.

Report on MOS' June Pelagic Trip on the Gulf of Mexico:  
**A PELAGIC ADVENTURE -- Don McKee, Trip Organizer**

An adventure, by definition, is a risky undertaking, and an adventure is exactly what a group of hardy birders experienced on our recent MOS pelagic trip. Bad weather, rough seas, smashed fingers, seasickness and mechanical breakdown were among the obstacles in our path on June 8th before the trip "jelled" on June 9, 1996. But 30 lucky participants who stuck it out were rewarded with some of "nature's best" that few have seen in this part of the world--good birds, dolphins and even a sperm whale!

Our greatest success would have to be the very rare juvenile Red-billed tropicbird in 1600 meters of water. But no less exciting was the warm reception we received from 75-100 Clymene Dolphins dazzling us with their jumping skills, playfulness and inquisitive personalities. I honestly believe the dolphins were more excited to see us than we were to see them. On a sad note, we will all be haunted by the futile attempts of a drowning Purple Gallinule to reach the boat for rescue. Nature can be both magnificent and unforgiving at the same moment.

Many thanks are due to all the birders who took the chance and signed up for our first truly pelagic trip. A special thanks goes to Texas birder and pelagic expert Dwight Peake, who was responsible for all navigation, record-keeping and identification, both birds and mammals. Dwight's videos and prints should be available for viewing at the next MOS meeting. I thank also the spotters--Charley Delmas, Mac Myers and Dick Peake--for keeping everyone informed with the aid of the 2-way radio headsets they wore. A log and trip bird list are attached on the following two pages for your review. A financial statement for our trip has been forwarded to Allan Mueller...the bottom line was a profit of about \$400 for MOS. I, for one, look forward to our next pelagic birding adventure.

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**1ST ANNUAL MOS WATERBIRD/SHOREBIRD DAY AT ST. CATHERINE'S CREEK NWR --**  
 On Saturday August 17, 25 hardy souls braved heat and humidity for the MOS-sponsored field trip to St. Catherine's Creek National Wildlife Refuge south of Natchez. It began at 0830, and most folks left after 1230. The group spent the a.m. at the St. Catherine's Unit where many waders and shorebirds were on hand. We had great views of 3-4 **Roseate Spoonbill**, several flocks of 50+ **Wood Storks** and several 1000 shorebirds--mostly Pectoral and Least Sandpipers, but highlighted by 30+ ad. and imm. Black-necked Stilts. In the afternoon the group visited the Sibley Farms Unit of the refuge. Those who stayed for this were duly rewarded, finding 600+ Am. White Pelicans, ca. **1,000 Wood Storks** (seen soaring and perched in trees), several score Black-crowned Night-Herons and a lesser no. of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. There also were many early-migrating Blue-winged Teal, plus lots of Great, Snowy and Cattle Egrets and 2,000+ shorebirds: Spotted, Least, Western, Semipalmated, Pectoral and Stilt Sandpipers. There were a couple of Least Terns from the endangered interior population and two Bald Eagles (one was banded and the band no. could be read by the group!). Mark Woodrey and Gene Knight are planning a '97 rerun, so be prepared to join in next August. Anyone wishing a copy of the detailed list may contact Mark Woodrey at the Natural Science Museum in Jackson (601-354-7303). -- Mark Woodrey

24HR TIME CDT	N.		WEST		DATE: June 9, 1996	NUMBER	Depth	PELAGIC TRIP FROM: Venice, LA
	LATIT.		LONG.		SPECIES	OF	in	on "Mr. Bud"
	DEG.	MIN.	DEG.	MIN		INDIVD.	Meters	COMMENTS
06:10	29	14.6	89	21.7	See totals			See totals for sp. seen from dock to South Pass
07:23	29	1	89	10.2				Port Eades
07:30	28	59	89	8	Forster's Tern	1	30	South Pass Jetties
07:30	28	59	89	8	Black Tern	3	30	
08:07	28	49.7	89	1.3			194	position
08:09	28	48.9	89	0.8	Laughing Gull	1	194	
08:23	28	45.3	88	58.4	Magnificent Frigatebird	1	574	
08:32	28	42.8	88	56.9			661	position
09:00	28	38.1	88	48			988	position
09:44	28	33.3	88	36.1	Black Tern	1	1543	
09:46	28	33	88	35.9	Purple Gallinule	1	1543	Green to blue water change, sargassum line
09:46	28	33	88	35.9	Bridled Tern	9	1543	
09:46	28	33	88	35.9	Sooty Tern	2	1543	
10:18	28	31.4	88	37	Black Tern	1	1600	menhaiden oil, fish, suet slick put out
10:18	28	31.4	88	37	Bridled Tern	1	1600	
10:25	28	30.7	88	37.5	Black Tern	2	1600	still within sight of front
10:25	28	30.7	88	37.5	Bridled Tern	3	1600	
10:30	28	30.1	88	38	Bridled Tern	1	1413	turn east away from front towards deeper water
10:55	28	32.1	88	36.3	Red-billed Tropicbird	1	1600	bird seen for 20 minutes, followed to color front
10:55	28	32.1	88	36.3	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	1	1600	
10:55	28	32.1	88	36.3	Clymene dolphin	20	1600	
11:05	28	33.7	88	34.8	Sooty Tern	2	1543	still within sight of front
11:05	28	33.7	88	34.8	Bridled Tern	1	1543	
11:12	28	32.5	88	36.1	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	1	1600	still within sight of front
11:12	28	32.5	88	36.1	Sooty Tern	1	1600	
11:30	28	29.9	88	38	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	1	1413	2nd menhaiden oil, fish, suet slick; depart 11:54
11:30	28	29.9	88	38	Clymene dolphin	80	1413	bowriding
11:58	28	31	88	37	Black Tern	2	1600	1 on sarg. mat, 1 flying; still within sight of front
11:58	28	31	88	37	Sooty Tern	1	1600	
11:58	28	31	88	37	Bridled Tern	3	1600	
12:05	28	32.7	88	35.7	Black Tern	3	1543	still within sight of front
12:05	28	32.7	88	35.7	Sooty Tern	2	1543	
12:05	28	32.7	88	35.7	Bridled Tern	3	1543	
12:10	28	33.4	88	34.4			1543	course change to due East away from front

JUNE 1996 MOS PELAGIC TRIP LOG

PELAGIC LOG (continued) AND FULL BIRD LIST

The Mississippi Ornithological Society Pelagic Field Trip  
From Venice, LA June 9, 1996. The trip list is:

TIME	LAT	LONG.	SPECIES	NO.	COMMENTS
12:17	28	33	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	1	1575
12:30	28	32.4	Pantropical spotted dolo	20	1676 bowriding
12:37	28	32.5			1731 course change towards South Pass
12:54	28	34.9	Pantropical spotted dolo	45	1575
12:54	28	34.9	Sperm whale	1	1575 3 blows and fluke-up seen
13:07	28	36.2	Sooty Tern	2	1575 on or near sargassum mat as color front passed
13:07	28	36.2	Bridled Tern	8	1575
13:19	28	38	Bottle-nosed dolphin	2	1274 offshore variety; green water
13:55	28	42.5	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	1	852
14:07	28	44	Black Tern	1	852
14:48	28	50.3	Least Tern	3	207
15:50	28	59	South Pass Jetties		See totals for sp. seen from dock to South Pass
15:55	29	1			Port Eades
17:00					dock at Bud's #2 for refueling
17:39	29	14.6			Disembark at Bud's Boat Rental #1

Marine Mammals

- Sperm Whale
- Offshore Bottlenosed dolphin
- Pantropical spotted dolphin
- Clymene dolphin

Birds

- Wilson's Storm-Petrel
- Magnificent Frigatebird
- RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD
- Bridled Tern
- Sooty Tern

- Cormorant, Double-crested
- Bittern, Least
- Heron, Great Blue
- Egret, Great
- Egret, Snowy
- Heron, Little Blue
- Heron, Tricolored
- Egret, Cattle
- Heron, Green
- Night-Heron, Black-Cr.
- Night-Heron, Yellow-Cr.
- Ibis, White
- Ibis, Glossy
- Ibis, White-faced
- Duck, Mottled
- Osprey
- Hawk, Red-shouldered
- Plover, Semipalmated
- Killdeer
- Stilt, Black-necked
- Willet
- Turnstone, Ruddy
- Gull, Laughing
- Tern, Gull-billed

- Tern, Caspian
- Tern, Royal
- Tern, Sandwich
- Tern, Forster's
- Tern, Least
- Tern, Black
- Skimmer, Black
- Dove, Mourning
- Cuckoo, Yellow-billed
- Hummingbird, Ruby-thr.
- Kingbird, Eastern
- Martin, Purple
- Swallow, No. Rough-winged
- Swallow, Barn
- Jay, Blue
- Crow, Fish
- Starling, European
- Warbler, Prothonotary
- Yellowthroat, Common
- Cardinal, Northern
- Blackbird, Red-winged
- Grackle, Boat-tailed
- Grackle, Common
- Oriole, Orchard

Dwight Peake  
30 LeBrun Ct.  
Galveston, TX 77551  
409-740-4621  
dpeake@mail.phoenix.net

*News of Members:*

**THE PASSING OF HAL MOORE, "MR. VICKSBIRDER" -- by Allan Mueller**

Hal Moore, a long time MOS member, died at age 78 on June 7, 1996. Hal was trained and worked as a forester for the Chicago Mill and Lumber Company and the U.S. Corps of Engineers. During World War II he was a pilot with the Flying Tigers and flew "The Hump" in China. He retired from the Corps of Engineers in 1982.

Hal was always an avid outdoorsman. As a professional forester he was outdoors constantly, especially at the beginning of his career. Early in life his recreational energies were devoted to hunting and fishing. He frequently spoke of the many early mornings spent pursuing waterfowl and turkeys. Later, Hal switched from hunting to birding, but he did continue to do some fishing.

Hal was the leading birder in Vicksburg in every sense of leadership. He was the first and only president of the Vicksbirders. For many years he led two Vicksbirder field trips each month. Everyone was welcome to come along, but you had better be on time. The trips started at 8:00 a.m. and it was seldom that Hal was still sitting at the meeting area at 8:01. He was compiler of the Vicksburg Christmas Bird Count and organizer of the spring and fall migration counts. In cooperation with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Hal conducted a Breeding Bird Census and Winter Bird Count on a plot near his home. He finished several plots for the Louisiana Breeding Bird Atlas. Hal served the MOS as Vice-President and as a member of the Bird Records Committee.

Hal followed his "passion for birds" to many areas outside of the United States. Trips to Africa, Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, Trinidad, Central America, and S. America were almost an annual event.

Hal also was an accomplished carpenter and furniture maker. He applied these skills to make many bluebird boxes, that will continue to provide nest sites along the Mississippi levee for many years.

All of this speaks highly of Hal, but really says nothing about him. Hal was full of energy, enthusiasm, and friendship. He was always ready to go birding with you, whether that meant a morning on the Louisiana levees, a weekend in Cameron Parish, or a week in the Rio Grande Valley. He readily shared good birds, good stories, and good jokes. The jokes will remain with him, but he told stories of seeing Red wolves and Ivory-billed Woodpeckers at what is now Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge.

Hal is missed, and will continue to be missed, by his family and his many friends and fellow birders. Anyone who leaves tracks like Hal's can feel good about their life.

-----  
**Further Sad News**

Missed in the past two issues was the news supplied by Ed Alexander of the death of Mr. Alie Ganier of Hollandale in southern Washington Co. only a few weeks after we saw him at September '95 MOS meeting there. Many of us will remember Mr. Ganier for sending us to our first Mississippi sighting of a Burrowing Owl. For several winters in the 1980s he located that species in cotton fields on his land east of



Hollandale. He was a faithful participant in the Christmas Bird Count taken yearly in that area. Two more long-time members of MOS, both from the Starkville area, who also passed away in recent months were Julia Broyles and Mr. E.W. Permenter. Both were regular attenders at MOS meetings. Many of us will remember Julia's sharing her bird slides at MOS meetings on Friday evenings. She lived some miles south of the MSU Campus on the road to Noxubee NWR, where her feeders attracted both Evening Grosbeaks and a Black-headed Grosbeak in the past two winters.

#### **FROM FIELD AND YARD: Nesting Season Reports**

From Terri Jacobson comes word that she is enjoying the "yard birds" around her 1-acre place in the Flora-Pocahontas area northwest of Jackson. She has been too busy with yard work and her job--writing recovery plans--at the Fish & Wildlife Service's endangered species office in Jackson for wider birding jaunts. A pair of Screech Owls nested in one of her Wood Duck boxes and raised 3 owlets. Her 2 bluebird boxes were both occupied--one by bluebirds and one by chickadees--and fledged 4 and 5 young'uns, respectively. Terri had a snake adventure when a Rat Snake began to climb a brick wall(!) to go after the young in a Carolina Wren nest in a coffee can hanging outside the kitchen window. She deterred that interloper and was privileged to see the five young wrens when they were actually leaving the nest a few days later. The only downer for the nesting season was a young bluebird that was about due to fledge, but was found dead with a leg entangled in monofilament line used in the nest. One can wonder if the cause of death was perhaps from the severe stress of being "trapped," unable to move, by the filament that kills all too many birds, but usually it is waterbirds.

[More on bottom page 14]

#### **1996 SPRING MIGRATION COUNT -- by Marion Hutto Schiefer**

People in nine counties participated in the North American Migration Count held on May 11 this year: Bolivar, Forest, Issaquena, Jackson, Lafayette, Lauderdale, Oktibbeha, Rankin and Warren. However, five counties had only one or two people taking part. Nona Herbert covered Bolivar Co. alone, as did Mark Goodman in Forest Co. (the Hattiesburg folks couldn't help this year and Mark was visiting the area for the weekend and volunteered to what he could). Jeffrey Strantz and Jenna Hester worked Issaquena Co., Mildred and Rod Stennis did Lauderdale and Bill Turcotte did Rankin alone. JoRee Pennell compiled for the three folks in Jackson Co. I appreciate the efforts of these people in covering their counties with none, one or two to help. In Oktibbeha Co. Terry Schiefer recruited 13 participants, and still the coverage was not very thorough. Marvin Davis had five helpers in Lafayette Co., and Allan Mueller led 12 observers in Warren Co.

On the next page is a list of the species seen in each county and the whole state. This year Jackson Co. had the highest species count, 109. Oktibbeha followed with 100, then Warren with 88 and Lafayette with 84 species. The total species for Mississippi on the Count Day was 166, down four from 1995 even though the count fell two days earlier. Several counts had periods of bad weather and/or high winds as a cold front passed through during the day. In Oktibbeha Co. we had some rain and mostly cloudy, but temperatures were nice, remaining in the 60's and 70's all day.

[September 21 is your chance for a Fall Count experience; see p. 4]



**THE MISSISSIPPI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE** -- Terence Schiefer, Chairman  
 With the ever increasing popularity of birding in Mississippi, birders are seeing more and more rare birds in the state. At one time rare birds were collected in order to document their occurrence. Nowadays the shotgun has given way to the camera and the pen. The specimens, photographs and written documentation of today will serve researchers interested in Mississippi's birds 100s of years from now. Unfortunately many rare birds reported are being documented poorly or not at all.

In order to encourage better documentation of Mississippi's rare birds, the MOS has established the Mississippi Bird Records Committee (MBRC). This committee is responsible for reviewing records of rare birds in Mississippi and maintaining the official state bird list. Initially the committee's membership consists of: Marvin Davis, Gene Knight, Terence Schiefer (chairman), Judith Toups and Mark Woodrey.

The MBRC plans to review all records of species that occur less than annually in Mississippi. These species are listed on the following "Review List". A list of "Other Rare and Uncommon Birds" for which the committee would like to receive reports is also included.

If you see a bird on the "Review List", please fill out the MOS Rare Bird Documentation Form and submit it or equivalent documentation and any substantiating photographs to the chairman of the MBRC. The most important items on the Documentation Form are the description of the bird (#19) and how you eliminated similar species (#20 & 21). These items tell the committee what you saw and how you arrived at your identification. Ask yourself "If the species of bird was not written at the top of the page would I be able to identify it from my description?" If the answer to this question is "no", you probably did not include enough details to satisfy the committee. However, it is important that you be honest with yourself and include only details that you actually saw.

If you see a bird that appears on the list of "Other Rare and Uncommon Birds", please submit your sighting on a 3" X 5" Bird Record Card (see page 15). Be sure to include a brief description for the rarer species on this list and for those that are frequently misidentified.

The Bird Record Cards should also be used to report interesting sightings of the more common species not on either of these lists. This would include species that are locally rare, high numbers of individuals, early and late arrival and departure dates, unseasonal records, etc. All records received will be considered for publication in "Birds Around the State" in the Mississippi Kite and for submission to Audubon Field Notes' seasonal reports.

Records are sent to Audubon Field Notes on the following schedule: Spring (March-May), Summer (June-July), Fall (Aug.-Nov.), Winter (Dec.-Feb.). Records should be received by state compiler, Terence Schiefer, no later than the 20th of the month following the end of each season (e.g., December 20th for the fall). Records received too late for AFN may still be included in "Birds Around the State." Bird Record Cards and Rare Bird Documentation Forms are available from: Terence Schiefer, Miss. State Univ., P.O. Box 9775, Mississippi State, MS 39762-9775.

**REVIEW LIST SPECIES:** All sightings of the following species require full details that will be reviewed by the MOS Bird Records Committee (please complete the Rare Bird Documentation Form):

Pacific Loon	Ruff	Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher
Red-necked Grebe	Red-necked Phalarope	Cassin's Kingbird
Western Grebe	Red Phalarope	Gray Kingbird
Sooty Shearwater	Pomarine Jaeger	Cave Swallow
Audubon's Shearwater	Parasitic Jaeger	Mountain Bluebird
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Little Gull	Townsend's Solitaire
Masked Booby	Common Black-headed Gull	Citrine Wagtail
Great Cormorant	California Gull	Sprague's Pipit
Neotropic Cormorant	Thayer's Gull	Bell's Vireo
Glossy Ibis	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Black-capped Vireo
White-faced Ibis	Slaty-backed Gull	Black-whiskered Vireo
Roseate Spoonbill	Glaucous Gull	Bachman's Warbler
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Great Black-backed Gull	Tropical Parula
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Black-legged Kittiwake	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Tundra Swan	Sabine's Gull	Townsend's Warbler
Trumpeter Swan	Roseate Tern	Connecticut Warbler
Brant	Bridled Tern	Painted Redstart
Cinnamon Teal	Sooty Tern	Western Tanager
Eurasian Wigeon	Brown Noddy	Black-headed Grosbeak
King Eider	Band-tailed Pigeon	Lazuli Bunting
Common Merganser	Snowy Owl	Green-tailed Towhee
White-tailed Kite	Burrowing Owl	Spotted Towhee
Northern Goshawk	Long-eared Owl	American Tree Sparrow
Harris' Hawk	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Lark Bunting
Swainson's Hawk	White-eared Hummingbird	Harris' Sparrow
Ferruginous Hawk	Anna's Hummingbird	McCown's Longspur
Rough-legged Hawk	Calliope Hummingbird	Smith's Longspur
Crested Caracara	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Prairie Falcon	Allen's Hummingbird	Snow Bunting
Yellow Rail	Ivory-billed Woodpecker	Western Meadowlark
Black Rail	Western Wood-Pewee	Shiny Cowbird
Limpkin	Alder Flycatcher	Bronzed Cowbird
Mountain Plover	Willow Flycatcher	Bullock's Oriole
Hudsonian Godwit	Say's Phoebe	Red Crossbill
Purple Sandpiper	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Any species new to Mississippi

**OTHER RARE OR UNCOMMON BIRDS:** MOS solicits reports of all sightings of the following species whose status in Mississippi is poorly documented (please use an MOS Bird Record Card). Distinguishing features seen should be noted for species that are easily misidentified.

Statewide

Red-throated Loon  
 American Bittern  
 Least Bittern  
 Wood Stork  
 Ross' Goose  
 Oldsquaw  
 Black Scoter  
 Surf Scoter  
 White-winged Scoter  
 Am. Swallow-tailed Kite  
 Golden Eagle  
 Snowy Plover  
 Piping Plover  
 Upland Sandpiper  
 Long-billed Curlew  
 Marbled Godwit  
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper  
 Common Tern  
 Eurasian Collared-Dove  
 Common Ground-Dove  
 Black-billed Cuckoo  
 Groove-billed Ani  
 Short-eared Owl  
 Buff-bellied Hummingbird  
 Black-chinned Hummingbird

Rufous Hummingbird  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher  
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
 Least Flycatcher  
 Vermillion Flycatcher  
 Western Kingbird  
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
 Bewick's Wren  
 Golden-winged Warbler  
 Nashville Warbler  
 Cape May Warbler  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler  
 Cerulean Warbler  
 Mourning Warbler  
 Wilson's Warbler  
 Painted Bunting  
 Clay-colored Sparrow  
 Lark Sparrow  
 Grasshopper Sparrow  
 Henslow's Sparrow  
 LeConte's Sparrow  
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow  
 Lincoln's Sparrow  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird  
 Evening Grosbeak

Inland Only

King Rail  
 Virginia Rail  
 Sora  
 Purple Gallinule  
 Common Moorhen  
 Sandhill Crane  
 Black-necked Stilt  
 American Avocet  
 Willet  
 Whimbrel  
 Ruddy Turnstone  
 Red Knot  
 Wilson's Phalarope  
 Laughing Gull  
 Franklin's Gull  
 Least Tern  
 White-winged Dove

Coastal Only

American Black Duck  
 Horned Lark  
 White-breasted Nuthatch  
 Winter Wren  
 Lapland Longspur

# Mississippi Ornithological Society Rare Bird Documentation Form

- 1. Species \_\_\_\_\_ 2. No. of birds \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Age \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Sex \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Date observed \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Hour \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Duration of observation \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Sky \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Exact location (include county) \_\_\_\_\_

- 10. Habitat \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Distance from bird \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Optical equipment used \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Relationship of sun/observer/bird \_\_\_\_\_

14. Others with you who saw the bird...
- | Name | Address | Phone |
|------|---------|-------|
|      |         |       |
|      |         |       |
|      |         |       |

15. Others who have independently identified the bird...
- | Name | Address | Phone |
|------|---------|-------|
|      |         |       |
|      |         |       |
|      |         |       |

- 16. Anyone who disagreed with this ID? \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. Vocalizations \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. Behavior \_\_\_\_\_

19. Describe in detail the features YOU noted. Attach drawings made during observation. Were features noted before \_\_\_ or after \_\_\_ consulting field guides? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- 20. What similar species did you consider? \_\_\_\_\_
- 21. Why did you eliminate them? \_\_\_\_\_

- 22. Previous experience with this species \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. Did you identify the bird prior to consulting field guides? \_\_\_\_\_
- 24. List additional materials submitted (photos, tapes, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

25. \_\_\_\_\_
- | Name | Address | Phone |
|------|---------|-------|
|      |         |       |
26. \_\_\_\_\_
- | Signature | Date |
|-----------|------|
|           |      |

# WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF MOS--WE'RE MIGHTY GLAD TO HAVE YOU JOIN! WE HOPE TO MEET YOU AT THE OCTOBER MEETING:

Sylvia Bogart, Long Beach  
 Dave and Cathy Buck, Laurel  
 Charles Dawson, Belden  
 Robert Deen, Jr., Meridian  
 Alice Duckett, Ocean Springs  
 Bly Gray, Southaven  
 Norma Hamilton, Tupelo  
 Frances Henne, Goodman  
 Rebecca Holberton, Ph.D., University/Oxford  
 Kay James, Ridgeland  
 Gordon and Sharon Jeffers, Picayune  
 Seymour Johnson, Indianola  
 Mac Myers, Pass Christian  
 Cynthia Mitchell, Clarksdale  
 Jack and Sarajane Smith, Saucier  
 Sarah Scott, Pass Christian  
 Harold and Penny Summer, Columbia  
 Robert Van Kirk, Nashville, TN  
 Linda Wallace, Ridgeland  
 Jordan Wyatt, Raleigh

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*More About the Birds of North America Life Histories Series: Mississippi Authors -- Among the first 220 species accounts in this series, four were authored by Mississippi residents, as follows--*

- (1) Inca Dove, #28, 1992, Allan Mueller of Vicksburg
- (2) Red-cockaded Woodpecker, #85, 1994, Jerome Jackson, Starkville
- (3) Pileated Woodpecker, #148, 1995, Evelyn Bull and Jerome Jackson
- (4) Gray Catbird, #167, 1995, David Cimprich, Frank Moore, Hattiesb'g

The sole supplier of these Life History Monographs is Buteo Books of Shipman, Virginia (a wonderful source of bird and nature books). Their Catalog #13, Feb. '96, lists the 1st 200 species. Appearance is not in phylogenetic sequence. All are priced at \$7.50; most are 12-24 pages long, a few to 28 or 32. Poorly-known species may run as little as the Altamira Oriole, 8 pp. Inquiries on availability of a species may be directed via phone, 804/263-8671 or by FAX, 804/263-4842.

## **MORE ON THE NESTING SEASON**

A new nesting species for Mississippi was added this July when Gene and Shannon Knight spotted a pair of **Willow Flycatchers** at their roadside nest in Tallahatchie Co., on the county line with Quitman Co., in the north unit of Tallahatchie NWR south of Crowder. Two weeks later the birds were feeding a fledgling flycatcher. Full details will likely appear in a future issue of *The Mississippi Kite*.

Bill Turcotte reported, among other things, a "bumper" season for Brown Thrasher pairs on his 5-acre property. How about you? Send the Editor a note on your interesting observations for the summer or fall seasons before Thanksgiving time.

Species: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Locality: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_ No. Seen: \_\_\_\_\_

Observers: \_\_\_\_\_

Documentation: ( ) sight record; ( ) photo; ( ) specimen; ( ) heard only

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Details: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Continue on reverse side, if needed) (Also complete long form for Review List species)

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**Organized 30 April 1955**

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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 dues or new address, to: Janet Dubuisson, 22410 Glad Acres, Pass Christian, MS 39571.**  
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**RETURN ADDRESS:**  
Miss. Ornithol. Soc.  
P.O. Box 515  
University, MS 38677



MS MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE  
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**FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:**

Details on Fall MOS/TOS Meeting;  
Plans for September Migration Count;  
Report of the June Pelagic Trip;  
Report of Bird Records Committee; and MUCH MORE!  
(Check Address Label--RED means you're about to  
leave us, but please don't!)