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**LOOKING AHEAD: SPRING BIRDING '97**

**MOS Spring Meeting on the Gulf Coast, April 18-20, 1997**

Best Western Beachview Inn, Gulfport is the site designated for MOS's spring meeting, beginning with the customary Friday 7:00 p.m. get-together in a suite there. Saturday a.m. birding trips will be scheduled, likely to Hancock County, in addition to the special one available as described below--"A Dunne Deal." A MOS business meeting will be held in mid-afternoon, likely 3:30-4:30 at the Beachview Sat., because later (5:00) there is a Pete Dunne book-signing and reception (included in Dinner fee) at another site. *NOTE: MOS will have no evening meeting to free MOS members to attend the "Dunne Deal Dinner."* There will be Sunday a.m. bird trips in the locality likely guided by Sat. results. Registration fee is \$5 [form on page 13] to cover expenses of the local committee. The Best Western Beachview Inn, Gulfport is offering a special rate, \$55/night, for MOS members on April 18, 19. Phone them--800-748-8969--and say you're coming for the MOS meeting.

**"A DUNNE DEAL"**

Pete Dunne, noted birder, author of bird books and columns (in bird magazines and the NY Times) and bird raconteur extraordinary, will visit the Miss. Coast, April 19. This visit, sponsored by Mississippi Coast Audubon Society, also is co-sponsored by the Chevron Pascagoula Refinery. This is a fund-raising event for the MCAS--to recoup their resources expended to assist in the purchase by The Nature Conservancy of 6500 acres of coastal chenier habitat at Ansley in Hancock County. Such habitat is vital for neotropical migrants that cross the Gulf in spring and fall. This highly commendable project is another great contribution of the Gulf Coasters, in addition to their longtime work to save breeding space on MS beaches for Least Terns. We who aren't MCAS members can contribute "after the fact" toward this fine cause by partaking of this "Dunne Deal." GREAT IDEA!!

The Saturday a.m. program will comprise a "Bird Trip with Pete" to Jackson Co. (limited to 50 persons; \$50 fee includes a "sumptuous" luncheon at the Gulf Islands Natl. Seashore HQ). There will be an evening buffet-style banquet and another "serving" of Pete Dunne as birding's most engaging after-dinner speaker (limit 200; \$50). Co-chairs of the "The Dunne Deal" effort are Judith Toups and Allison Henry. **You should have received a mailing with details and a form to make reservations for "The Dunne Deal."** If you haven't already made reservations, resurrect that form and send it with a check. If you can't locate the Dunne Deal flyer, call Alice Duckett at 601/875-4559.

## WAITING FOR WINTER TO BE SPRING--WITH FEELINGS OF SPRING IN THE AIR

### WAITING

Lloyd Ramsey--Winston-Salem, NC

It had happened again: freezing in the dark for an hour, for nothing. Numb toes, aching fingers, nose dripping, I watched a silent jet airliner relax its climb, roll toward course heading, and lose its runway lights. Stars were gone, leaving only Venus and a curl of moon, as high clouds turned dark over a coloring dawn. Apparently too early for the season, and probably too late for today, it was about time to go.

It would be a good place, in maybe a month or two. Thick woods around, with willow in the bottoms and tall oak on the slopes, and boyish pines taking over a weedy cleared area. Lots of sky, to watch them fly. But if I'd never seen it, I wouldn't believe it, and wouldn't bother.

It is said that Woodcocks, courting in early spring at dawn and dusk, fly up high to perform a passionate spiral descent called a sky dance. They could say they did back-loops, and who could say different. Who do you know, and really trust, who has really seen it? It's one of those mean myths, like the infamous snipe hunt, concocted as a diverting torment, a wicked tease to gullible beginners. Until you see it. Then it's as marvelous as the many hours or months or years you waited for it.

It doesn't have to be cold, and you could get lucky first time out. There must be enough woods, with deep leaves, for Woodcock to feed, hide, and nest in. There has to be a field, open enough for the flying male, but covered enough for the waiting female. And the season and the weather have to be right, for Woodcocks.

Part of my problem has been a determination, after years of missing it, to not miss it. I start going out in February, at the first days that bring the crocus up. By the time I finally do see a flight, the pain has accumulated, so that my very first sighting was an exultation; but last year, when I saw three the same evening, and finally heard their strange, squeaky music, it was only what I was due.

This morning, as Cardinals started tinkering and Mockingbirds began checking, three morning doves raced across the hard black tree silhouette, and I wondered how I knew in the half dark they were not Woodcock. To start with, there were three, in a tight group. Their bodies were sleek yet too slick, their wings too bent and fluid, and each had only a dot for a head. A Woodcock looks lumpy and too heavy to fly, like a bumblebee, and its wings beat stiff, like a Starling. Its impossible bill can disappear in the distance, where it instantly is because they are explosively fast like Bobwhite, but the head will be large and angular like a Bluejay. And it keeps banking, frantically, like a Chimney Swift. If you don't get on it going up, it's gone--unless he's gliding in--and you missed, again.

It is a myth, that sky dance, too dark and too high to see anyway. But I'll try again. As usual, you get out of it what you put in it. And it's a new field, to wonder about, to hope for--waiting for winter to be spring.

*This essay by Lloyd Ramsey was taken from Bird Chat Daily Digest on the Internet, available to Bird Chat non-subscriber's on Jack Siler's page, "Birding on the Web, The Next Generation" for which the URL is:*  
<http://compstat.wharton.upenn.edu.8001/~siler/birding.html>

## SOUNDS OF SILENCE

Joe McGee--Hickory, MS

It has been six months now since the day in early September when our chimney fell eerily silent, but the promise of Spring in the air raises anticipation that those sounds will be renewed. These are thoughts that I penned back in September:

For the past month or so our chimney was alive with raucous sounds of Chimney Swift chicks begging for food. They had been erupting with loud chattering sounds every time a parent arrived in the chimney with a fresh pellet of insect food--about every 10 to 15 minutes or so from before dawn until just before dark. But on September 2nd the Chimney Swifts fledged and the chimney is as quiet as a tomb.

Chimney Swifts nest in our chimney every summer and usually fledge well before the middle of August. This past summer I feared a failed nesting attempt (and one may very well have failed) when I discovered eggshell fragments and a cracked and desiccated, but otherwise intact, tiny white egg on the edge of the hearth. The chimney had been silent all summer and seemingly would remain so.

But on August 5th, while hanging a hummingbird feeder, I saw an adult swift leave our chimney. This was repeated the next day, and on August 7th I heard chicks begging at intervals and knew that, once again, swifts were nesting in our chimney.

I enjoy and admire swifts and consider myself fortunate that we have them in our chimney. I look forward to their arrival every March in the same way I anticipate the arrival every February of Purple Martins at our nesting gourds.

One early spring night a few years ago I rescued a Chimney Swift from the jaws of a white cat. (Never underestimate a cat--how could a cat catch a swift? As it roosted on a tree trunk or wall?) In the darkness I was not sure what sort of prey the cat held, because whatever it was emitted very strange and loud "ticking" sounds that did not seem quite right for a rodent. Since I could not determine if the bird was seriously injured once I freed it from the cat, I placed the swift in a box and let it remain overnight in a quiet room for safety.

At dawn the next morning the bird seemed O.K., so I took the box outside for the release. As I gingerly grasped the swift and held it momentarily in my hand, I had the rare opportunity to observe a swift at close range. What a miracle of streamlined elegance I held in my hand! At least the swift's ordeal with the cat afforded me the chance to admire its subdued, sooty color, long flight feathers, spiked tail, nearly non-existent feet and deep, almost mammalian eyes.

I had barely uncurled my fingers when the swift lived up to its name. Before I could say "deforestation," it took off like the proverbial jet, swerved at the last possible split-second to avoid hitting the trunk of the sycamore in our backyard toward which it seemed headed. The rescue had been successful.

Sometimes at local garden centers and other purveyors of bird seed I strike up a conversation with someone in the check-out line who is purchasing bird feed. (Of course, I'm trying to find out if they have Evening Grosbeaks!) Often, the bird talk shifts to other ornithological topics, including Chimney Swifts. I fear I have discovered a prevalent, negative attitude toward swifts--one that holds them in the same low esteem

usually reserved for bats. Otherwise well-intentioned people--willing to spend money feeding House Sparrows(!)--seem to on harbor nothing but contempt for Chimney Swifts. The complaints range from "They may stop up my chimney" and "They are dirty and carry disease" thought "They sound spooky especially at night" and "one got out in our house once."

Chimney Swifts are apparently still abundant, but are said to be declining in numbers. Surely a society bent on eliminating all natural forests (which just might contain the large, hollow trees in which swifts originally nested) can accommodate a beneficial bird which is more than willing to adapt to man-made structures.

There is hope for my friends, the Chimney Swifts who share my chimney when I'm not using it. Driftwood Wildlife Association in Texas is a nonprofit organization that devotes considerable energy to conser-vation of Chimney Swifts. They have published several useful brochures:

"Life History of the Chimney Swift," Sweeps vs. Swifts," "Why Should I Care About Chimney Swifts," "Environmental Tips for Professional Chimney Sweeps," and most interesting, "Providing and Maintaining Nesting Habitat for Chimney Swifts."

Readers who are members of a local Audubon Society might consider contacting DWS and obtaining some of their literature for distribution at local meetings. Any contributions would undoubtedly be very welcome. Their address is:

Driftwood Wildlife Association  
1206 West 38th Street #1105  
Austin, TX 78705

[*My thanks to MOSer Mildred Stennis for acquainting me with DWA and providing me with some of their literature. -- J.M.*]

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**THANKS FOR ALL THEIR HELP!!**

To Judy and Dick Burkepile, the Oxford "mail room crew" who have been so vital in getting the Newsletters addressed, taped, stamped and ready for the US Postal Service's not-always-kind attentions. With the Dec. issue tried a heavier cover sheet; hopefully, it resulted in your copy in a better condition at arrival. Comments??

For the March issues, for 3 years now, we are especially indebted to David King for his considerable time and effort in producing a fine tabulation of all the CBC data.

**BIRDING THE NET--Bird Folks Online and Online Opportunities**

There has been for the past 4 months a means of spreading "bird bulletins" and "birdgossip" among Online BirdFolks. Originated by your Editor, this e-mail list allows a simultaneous message to be sent to a large no. of "listeners." It started at ten Folks, but has grown to 30. In the not-too-distant future, we anticipate a switch to a ListServer arrangement, whereby all "subscribers" who register an e-mail address will receive all messages sent by any "subscriber." In other words, it cuts out the "middle-man" who now must assemble reports from various persons into a message to be distributed to everyone.

*Worldwide Web birding sites*, alluded to above (top page 3) offer many and varied sources. The Jack Siler page cited on p. 3 provides access to Rare Bird Alert transcripts from shore to shore across the USA, including some not available via telephone, under the "Hot Birds" listing. It also makes available a Daily Digest of messages exchanged by Bird Chat subscribers, if one is content to "eavesdrop" and not add to the "conversations."

Philip Barbour's submitted nominee for the title of "Mother of All Web Birdsites"--"Birding and Ecological Sites in CASCADIA"--the Pacific Northwest:

<http://weber.u.washington.edu/~dvictor/other.html>

## LOOKING BACK:

### 1996-97 MISSISSIPPI CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

by David King

The table below gives the unedited data for the fifteen 1996-97 Christmas Bird Counts (CBC's) held in the state of Mississippi this past winter. Refer to the upcoming issue of Audubon Field Notes (Vol 51, #4) for the edited totals. The counts are arranged in the table from south to north (by latitude). 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 30 Dec 96,

JC = Jackson County CBC on 4 Jan 97,

Hat = Hattiesburg CBC on 1 Jan 97,

Nat = Natchez CBC on 21 Dec 96,

CH = Church Hill CBC on 2 Jan 97,

Vic = Vicksburg CBC on 22 Dec 96,

Jac = Jackson CBC on 28 Dec 96,

WC = Washington County (south) CBC on 5 Jan 97,

Nox = Noxubee N.W.R. CBC on 21 Dec 96,

Sid = Sidon CBC,

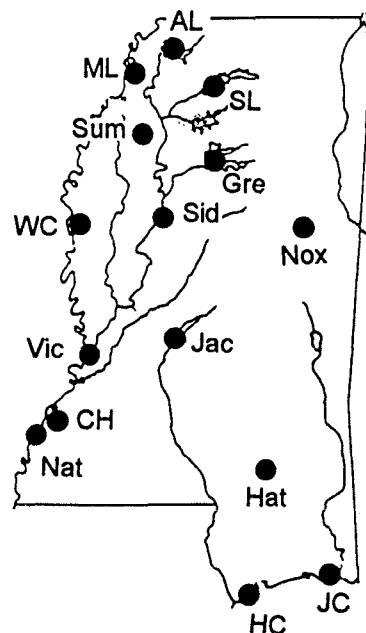
Gre = Grenada CBC on 23 Dec 96,

Sum = Sumner CBC on 26 Dec 96,

SL = Sardis Lake CBC on 21 Dec 96,

ML = Moon Lake CBC on 4 Jan 97, and

AL = Arkabutla Lake CBC on 28 Dec 96.



A total of 188 species were found on all the counts. This is the same number as last year. However, there were three additional species seen on count week. As expected the two coastal counts had the biggest species totals with Southern Hancock County breaking the magic 150 mark with (152) and Jackson County coming in at 142. Of the inland counts, seven broke the 100 mark for number of total species. The inland winner was Jackson with 106.

Several impressive species were found. A Pacific Loon, a Western Grebe, and a Northern Goshawk, all very unusual, were at Sardis Lake. An Oldsquaw was on the coast at S. Hancock Co. Merlins were reported on 5 counts and Noxubee had a Peregrine. Jackson County had a Yellow Rail as a count week bird. A Black-legged Kittiwake was found at Arkabutla Lake. Eurasian Collared Doves continue there spread into the state. They were found for the first time on two inland counts. Grenada came in with an impressive list of 5 species of owls and six species of Wrens. The coastal counts again reported several unusual hummingbirds. The best warbler was a Black-and-White found on the Vicksburg count. Summer Tanagers were found on two counts. Thanks to substantial field research, Henslow's Sparrows were found on the Jackson County. However, several species, including all the Nuthatches, were found in very low numbers.

In all it was a very good year. Congratulations to all who participated.

| NAME                 | HAN | JC  | HAT  | NAT  | CH | VIC | JAC | WAS   | NOX  | SID  | GRE | SUM  | SAR  | ML  | ARK  |
|----------------------|-----|-----|------|------|----|-----|-----|-------|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|
| Pacific Loon         |     |     |      |      |    |     |     |       |      |      |     |      | 2    |     |      |
| Common Loon          | 8   | 8   |      |      |    |     |     |       |      |      | 3   |      | 18   |     |      |
| Pied-billed Grebe    | 129 | 62  | 82   | 73   |    | 48  | 91  | 32    | 55   | 4    | 16  | 2    | 245  | 14  | 27   |
| Horned Grebe         | 6   | 25  |      |      |    |     | 3   |       | 3    |      | 3   |      | 112  | 1   | 6    |
| Eared Grebe          | 1   | 7   | 2    |      |    |     | 2   |       |      |      |     |      | 1    |     |      |
| Western Grebe        |     |     |      |      |    |     |     |       |      |      |     |      | 1    |     |      |
| Amer White Pelican   | 6   | 148 |      | 36   |    | 3   | 134 | 80    |      |      | 123 |      | 109  |     |      |
| Brown Pelican        | 167 | 410 |      |      |    |     |     |       |      |      |     |      |      |     |      |
| Double-cr Cormorant  | 221 | 218 | 33   | 4867 |    | 970 | 119 | 5959  | 431  | 8    | 23  |      | 795  | 25  | 1    |
| Anhinga              | 1   | 2   |      | 2    |    |     |     |       |      |      |     |      |      |     |      |
| American Bittern     | 4   |     |      |      |    |     |     |       |      | 1    |     |      |      |     |      |
| Great Blue Heron     | 65  | 50  | 17   | 27   | 1  | 93  | 61  | 108   | 58   | 360  | 91  | 32   | 114  | 4   | 94   |
| Great Egret          | 172 | 55  | 39   | 208  |    | 232 | 128 | 149   |      | 15   | 5   |      |      |     |      |
| Snowy Egret          | 175 | 51  |      |      |    |     |     |       |      |      |     |      |      |     |      |
| Little Blue Heron    | 19  | 5   |      |      |    |     |     |       |      |      |     |      |      |     |      |
| Tricolored Heron     | 21  | 6   |      | 1    |    |     |     |       |      |      |     |      |      |     |      |
| Cattle Egret         | 2   |     |      | 3    |    | 5   | 1   |       |      | 3    |     |      |      |     |      |
| Black-cr Night-Heron |     | 18  |      |      |    |     |     |       |      | 1    |     |      |      |     |      |
| night-heron sp.      | 1   |     |      |      |    |     |     |       |      |      |     |      |      |     |      |
| White Ibis           | 83  | 13  |      |      |    |     |     |       |      |      |     |      |      |     |      |
| Plegadis sp.         | 1   |     |      |      |    |     |     |       |      |      |     |      |      |     |      |
| Gr White-front Goose | 28  |     |      |      |    |     |     | 2754  | 1    | 6    |     |      | 109  |     | 121  |
| Snow Goose (blue)    |     |     |      |      |    |     |     | 5978  |      | 733  |     | 1037 | 6    |     | 5080 |
| Snow Goose           | 1   | 3   |      |      |    |     |     | 17939 |      | 1466 |     | 1038 | 18   | 28  | 5154 |
| Ross' Goose          |     |     |      |      |    |     |     | 1     |      |      |     |      | 9    |     |      |
| Canada Goose         | 21  | 155 |      |      |    | 164 | 285 | 448   | 659  | 15   | 14  | 2    | 3301 | 125 | 492  |
| Can Goose (small)    |     |     |      |      |    |     |     |       |      |      |     |      | 9    |     |      |
| Wood Duck            | 20  | 12  | 19   | 4    |    | 42  | 40  | 10    | 250  | 17   | 9   | 200  | 3    | 1   | 8    |
| Green-winged Teal    | 139 | 67  | 2    |      |    | 6   | 81  | 249   | 24   | 20   | 102 | 52   | 409  |     | 55   |
| American Black Duck  |     |     |      |      |    |     | 2   | 6     | 3    |      | 6   |      | 63   |     | 2    |
| Mottled Duck         | 46  | 11  |      |      |    |     |     |       |      |      |     |      |      |     |      |
| Mallard              | 52  | 52  | 16   | 367  | 8  | 491 | 287 | 9915  | 1539 | 2015 | 78  | 1645 | 878  | 306 | 2909 |
| Northern Pintail     | 3   |     | 1    |      |    | 1   | 2   | 183   | 70   |      |     | 26   |      |     | 137  |
| Blue-winged Teal     | 14  | 76  | 3    |      |    |     |     |       | 9    | 1    |     |      |      |     |      |
| Northern Shoveler    | 134 | 333 | 1500 | 38   |    | 17  | 116 | 481   | 105  | 1569 | 260 | 100  | 20   | 1   | 2478 |
| Gadwall              | 227 | 49  | 75   | 9    |    | 318 | 44  | 369   | 437  | 164  | 117 | 173  | 91   | 70  | 79   |
| American Wigeon      | 8   | 2   | 2    |      |    | 86  | 15  | 78    | 126  | 6    |     | 34   | 562  | 1   | 15   |
| Canvasback           |     |     | 1    |      |    |     | 7   | 9     |      | 200  |     |      |      |     | 68   |
| Redhead              | 4   | 4   | 33   | 2    |    |     | 11  |       |      |      | 10  | 30   |      |     | 2    |
| Ring-necked Duck     | 259 | 36  | 2280 | 9    |    | 7   | 220 | 63    | 444  | 15   | 75  | 35   | 6    |     | 45   |
| Greater Scaup        | 2   | 4   | 1    |      |    |     |     |       |      |      |     |      |      |     |      |
| Lesser Scaup         | 526 | 486 | 2258 | 194  |    | 154 | 96  | 485   | 11   | 3175 | 150 | 10   |      | 40  | 763  |
| scaup sp.            | 500 |     |      |      |    |     | 33  |       |      |      |     |      |      |     |      |
| Oldsquaw             | 1   |     |      |      |    |     |     |       |      |      |     |      |      |     |      |
| Common Goldeneye     | 7   |     | 1    |      |    | 1   |     | 1     |      |      |     |      |      |     | 9    |
| Bufflehead           | 21  | 42  | 2    | 2    |    | 3   | 65  | 235   | 45   |      | 51  |      | 1    |     | 212  |
| Hooded Merganser     | 10  | 37  | 162  | 30   |    | 156 | 299 | 305   | 921  | 97   | 159 | 5    | 871  |     | 21   |
| Red-breast Merganser | 37  | 25  |      |      |    |     | 2   |       |      |      | 1   |      | CW   |     | 1    |
| Ruddy Duck           | 123 | 82  | 1920 | 23   |    |     | 37  | 710   | 6    | 350  | 40  | 160  | 10   | 32  | 282  |
| duck sp.             |     |     |      | 88   |    | 203 |     |       |      | 5000 |     | 1000 |      |     |      |
| Black Vulture        | 35  | 26  | 64   | 36   | 8  | 63  | 163 |       | 101  |      | 2   |      | 11   |     |      |
| Turkey Vulture       | 56  | 16  | 36   | 26   | 2  | 101 | 56  |       | 102  | 4    | 9   |      | 98   |     |      |
| Osprey               | 3   | 5   |      | 2    |    |     |     |       |      |      |     |      | 1    |     |      |
| Bald Eagle           | 3   | 1   |      | CW   |    | 1   | 1   | 1     | 4    |      | 16  |      | 16   |     | 1    |
| adult                | 3   |     |      |      |    | 1   | 1   | 1     | 2    |      | 6   |      | 8    |     |      |
| immature             |     | 1   |      |      |    |     |     |       | 2    |      | 10  |      | 8    |     | 1    |
| NAME                 | HAN | JC  | HAT  | NAT  | CH | VIC | JAC | WAS   | NOX  | SID  | GRE | SUM  | SAR  | ML  | ARK  |

| NAME                  | HAN | JC  | HAT  | NAT | CH | VIC      | JAC      | WAS      | NOX      | SID | GRE       | SUM | SAR      | ML  | ARK |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|------|-----|----|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----|-----------|-----|----------|-----|-----|
| Northern Harrier      | 11  | 11  | 1    | 4   |    | 9        | 11       | 19       | 6        | 10  | 9         | 1   | 10       | 4   | 9   |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk    | 5   | 1   | 1    |     |    | 2        | 3        | 1        | 5        |     | 3         |     | 7        |     | 2   |
| Cooper's Hawk         | 2   |     |      |     |    |          | 3        | 4        | 3        |     | 1         |     | 2        |     | 1   |
| Northern Goshawk      |     |     |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     | 1        |     |     |
| Accipiter sp.         |     |     |      |     |    |          | 1        |          |          |     | 1         |     |          |     |     |
| Red-shouldered Hawk   | 7   | 1   | 13   | 4   | 4  | 26       | 11       |          | 4        |     | 6         |     | 2        |     | 2   |
| Red-tailed Hawk       | 10  | 26  | 12   | 34  | 12 | 97       | 54       | 84       | 35       | 37  | 22        | 12  | 29       | 17  | 61  |
| Buteo sp.             |     | 1   |      |     |    | 1        |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Golden Eagle          |     |     |      |     |    |          |          |          | CW       |     |           |     | CW       |     |     |
| immature              |     |     |      |     |    |          |          |          | CW       |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| eagle sp.             |     |     |      | 1   |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| American Kestrel      | 20  | 12  | 12   | 16  |    | 32       | 8        | 62       | 7        | 16  | 10        | 6   | 9        | 5   | 10  |
| Merlin                | 1   | 1   | 1    |     |    |          |          | 1        |          |     |           |     | <u>1</u> |     |     |
| Peregrine Falcon      |     |     |      |     |    |          |          |          | <u>1</u> |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Wild Turkey           | CW  |     | 1    |     |    | 8        |          | 9        | 2        |     | <u>20</u> |     |          |     |     |
| Northern Bobwhite     | 4   | 17  |      |     |    |          |          |          | 9        |     | 8         |     | 25       |     | 23  |
| Yellow Rail           |     | CW  |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Clapper Rail          | 66  | 30  |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| King Rail             | 5   |     |      |     |    |          | 1        |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Virginia Rail         |     | 1   |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     | <u>2</u>  |     |          |     |     |
| Sora                  | 5   | 10  |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     | <u>4</u>  |     |          |     |     |
| Common Moorhen        | 11  | 1   |      |     |    |          |          | <u>1</u> |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| American Coot         | 642 | 186 | 1933 | 286 |    | 9        | 266      | 2392     | 345      | 10  | 20        | 740 | 6        | 300 | 1   |
| Sandhill Crane        |     | 60  |      |     |    |          |          |          | <u>1</u> |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Black-bellied Plover  | 1   | 2   |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Semipalmated Plover   | 5   |     |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Piping Plover         | 4   |     |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Killdeer              | 109 | 176 | 148  | 336 | 4  | 883      | 120      | 830      | 131      | 150 | 30        | 105 | 164      | 13  | 375 |
| Amer Oystercatcher    |     | 14  |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Black-necked Stilt    |     | 5   |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| American Avocet       |     | 12  |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Greater Yellowlegs    | 10  | 43  |      |     |    | 24       | <u>1</u> | 2        |          |     | 11        | 8   |          |     | 10  |
| Lesser Yellowlegs     | 6   | 3   |      | 2   |    | 2        |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     | 1   |
| Solitary Sandpiper    |     |     |      | 1   |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Willet                | 8   | 145 |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Spotted Sandpiper     | 2   | 2   | 4    |     |    | 2        |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Ruddy Turnstone       | 5   | 11  |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Sanderling            | 47  | 31  |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Western Sandpiper     | 7   | 37  |      |     |    |          |          |          |          | 1   |           |     |          |     |     |
| Least Sandpiper       | 10  | 31  |      |     |    | <u>5</u> |          | 62       |          | 15  | 17        |     | 12       |     | 3   |
| Dunlin                | 256 | 234 |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Short-bill Dowitcher  | 70  |     |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| dowitcher sp.         | 4   | 8   |      |     |    |          |          | 100      |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Common Snipe          | 167 | 64  |      | 3   |    | 28       | 1        | 21       | 26       | 106 | 4         | 9   | 26       |     | 53  |
| American Woodcock     |     | CW  |      | 6   |    |          | 2        | 7        | 5        |     | 1         | 6   |          |     | 8   |
| Laughing Gull         | 195 | 584 |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Bonaparte's Gull      | 17  | 40  |      | 83  |    | 42       | 59       | 627      |          |     | 881       | 15  | 1001     | 16  | 201 |
| Ring-billed Gull      | 119 | 201 | 1    | 135 |    | 208      | 105      | 854      |          |     | 507       |     | 304      | 2   | 484 |
| Herring Gull          | 54  | 56  |      | 12  |    |          |          | 27       |          |     | 9         |     | 13       |     | 1   |
| Black-legged Kittiwak |     |     |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     | 1   |
| gull sp.              |     |     |      |     |    | 2        |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Caspian Tern          | 51  | 55  |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Royal Tern            | 43  | 111 |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Forster's Tern        | 114 | 90  | 3    | 125 |    | 30       | 122      | 4        | <u>1</u> |     | 6         |     | 47       |     |     |
| Black Skimmer         | 102 | 66  |      |     |    |          |          |          |          |     |           |     |          |     |     |
| Rock Dove             | 16  | 272 | 559  | 76  |    | 541      | 44       | 36       | 18       | 29  | 140       | 15  | 12       | 12  | 43  |
| NAME                  | HAN | JC  | HAT  | NAT | CH | VIC      | JAC      | WAS      | NOX      | SID | GRE       | SUM | SAR      | ML  | ARK |

| NAME                   | HAN   | JC   | HAT | NAT | CH  | VIC  | JAC  | WAS | NOX  | SID  | GRE  | SUM | SAR  | ML | ARK  |
|------------------------|-------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-----|------|----|------|
| Eur Collared-Dove      | 30    | 13   |     |     |     | 8    |      |     |      |      | 3    |     |      |    |      |
| White-winged Dove      | CW    | CW   |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |      |      |     |      |    |      |
| Mourning Dove          | 427   | 469  | 244 | 478 |     | 356  | 226  | 465 | 69   | 310  | 162  | 65  | 73   | 4  | 258  |
| Common Barn-Owl        |       |      |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |      | 2    |     |      |    |      |
| Eastern Screech-Owl    | 2     | 8    | 1   | 1   |     |      | 5    | 12  | 5    | 2    | 4    | 1   | 8    |    | 2    |
| Great Horned Owl       | 3     | 3    | 1   |     |     | 1    | 3    | 9   | 5    | 5    | 2    | 1   | 5    |    |      |
| Barred Owl             | 2     | 1    | 3   | 2   |     | 6    | 8    | 21  | 16   | 1    | 3    | 1   | 10   |    | 4    |
| Short-eared Owl        |       |      |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |      | 2    |     |      |    |      |
| Buff-bel Hummingbird   | 1     |      |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |      |      |     |      |    |      |
| <i>Archilochus</i> sp. | 1     |      |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |      |      |     |      |    |      |
| Rufous Hummingbird     | 2     | 2    |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |      |      |     |      |    |      |
| Belted Kingfisher      | 34    | 31   | 21  | 7   |     | 25   | 20   | 10  | 13   | 6    | 6    | 1   | 13   | 3  | 17   |
| Red-head Woodpecker    | 1     | 4    | 28  | 5   |     | 39   | 47   | 16  | 61   | 4    | 13   |     | 31   | 5  | 79   |
| Red-bel Woodpecker     | 58    | 64   | 52  | 18  | 50  | 142  | 50   | 89  | 106  | 26   | 40   | 10  | 63   | 18 | 110  |
| Yellow-bel Sapsucker   | 13    | 9    | 12  | 8   | 10  | 40   | 13   | 40  | 14   | 10   | 18   |     | 27   |    | 22   |
| Downy Woodpecker       | 27    | 6    | 10  | 2   | 18  | 62   | 25   | 53  | 27   | 15   | 12   | 8   | 33   | 2  | 30   |
| Hairy Woodpecker       | 4     | 1    | 3   | 8   |     | 13   | 2    | 15  | 2    |      | 6    | 1   | 7    |    | 4    |
| Red-cockad Wdpecker    |       |      |     |     |     |      |      |     | 14   |      |      |     |      |    |      |
| Northern Flicker       | 14    | 20   | 41  |     | 3   | 81   | 30   | 39  | 39   | 9    | 28   | 1   | 78   | 1  | 74   |
| Pileated Woodpecker    | 4     | 13   | 19  | 4   | 1   | 16   | 9    | 16  | 29   | 4    | 6    |     | 17   | 2  | 19   |
| Eastern Phoebe         | 30    | 18   | 19  | 3   | 7   | 23   | 7    | 32  | 36   | 6    |      |     | 2    |    | 1    |
| Horned Lark            |       |      |     | 18  | 50  | 39   |      | 388 |      | 101  |      | 15  | 1    | 25 | 141  |
| Tree Swallow           | 10142 | 2985 |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |      |      |     |      |    |      |
| Blue Jay               | 145   | 220  | 139 | 34  | 52  | 140  | 136  | 170 | 96   | 50   | 74   | 38  | 105  | 9  | 156  |
| American Crow          | 95    | 245  | 190 | 191 | 85  | 412  | 288  |     | 250  | 20   | 207  |     | 213  |    | 100  |
| Fish Crow              | 69    | 28   | 26  | 25  |     | 28   | 12   |     | CW   |      | 10   |     |      |    |      |
| crow sp.               | 45    |      |     |     |     |      | 19   | 1   |      |      |      |     |      |    |      |
| Carolina Chickadee     | 123   | 32   | 76  | 72  | 46  | 202  | 112  | 180 | 78   | 35   | 78   | 4   | 72   | 2  | 107  |
| Tufted Titmouse        | 85    | 66   | 44  | 17  | 31  | 160  | 73   | 84  | 67   | 13   | 53   |     | 78   | 2  | 96   |
| Red-breast Nuthatch    |       |      |     |     |     |      |      | 1   |      |      |      |     |      |    |      |
| White-breast Nuthatch  |       |      |     |     |     |      | 1    |     | 12   |      |      |     | 15   |    | 7    |
| Brown-head Nuthatch    | 16    | 18   | 14  |     |     |      | 29   |     | 3    |      |      |     | 2    |    |      |
| Brown Creeper          |       |      |     |     |     |      | 2    | 3   | 15   | 2    | 2    |     | 7    |    | 4    |
| Carolina Wren          | 83    | 69   | 51  | 5   | 9   | 190  | 57   | 118 | 56   | 25   | 31   | 3   | 35   | 5  | 93   |
| Bewick's Wren          |       |      |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |      | 1    |     |      |    |      |
| House Wren             | 15    | 11   | 3   |     |     | 4    |      | 4   | 2    |      | 1    |     |      |    | 1    |
| Winter Wren            |       |      |     |     |     |      | 3    | 4   | 26   |      | 3    |     | 5    |    | 5    |
| Sedge Wren             | 34    | 21   | 1   |     |     |      |      | 2   | 1    |      | 1    |     |      |    |      |
| Marsh Wren             | 19    | 14   |     |     |     |      |      | 1   | 1    |      | 1    |     |      |    |      |
| Golden-crown Kinglet   |       | 1    | 1   |     |     | 3    | 4    | 19  | 73   | 2    | 22   |     | 30   |    | 18   |
| Ruby-crown Kinglet     | 108   | 26   | 39  | 4   | 2   | 97   | 73   | 81  | 96   | 8    | 64   | 2   | 38   |    | 26   |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  | 6     | 3    | 4   |     |     |      |      | 1   |      |      |      |     |      |    | 1    |
| Eastern Bluebird       | 105   | 153  | 288 | 50  | 35  | 131  | 205  | 128 | 89   | 41   | 37   | 6   | 207  | 2  | 149  |
| Hermit Thrush          | 6     | 5    | 2   | 1   | 3   | 18   | 1    | 22  | 48   | 9    | 4    |     | 11   | 1  | 1    |
| American Robin         | 581   | 4770 | 637 | 60  | 122 | 476  | 112  | 250 | 1281 | 10   | 1290 | 6   | 450  | 1  | 116  |
| Gray Catbird           | 19    | 5    | 2   |     |     | 1    |      |     |      | 1    |      |     |      |    |      |
| Northern Mockingbird   | 73    | 72   | 88  | 45  | 11  | 129  | 74   | 61  | 27   | 30   | 13   | 12  | 24   | 10 | 47   |
| Brown Thrasher         | 19    | 11   | 14  | 10  | 4   | 16   | 25   | 9   | 15   | 15   | 13   | 1   | 10   | 1  | 2    |
| American Pipit         | 3     | 3    | 84  | 125 |     | 34   | 68   | 17  | 95   | 8    | 3    |     |      |    | 5    |
| Cedar Waxwing          | 828   | 517  | 136 | 81  | 85  | 1015 | 387  | 12  | 50   |      | 205  |     | 177  |    | 72   |
| Loggerhead Shrike      | 19    | 32   | 13  | 28  | 2   | 44   | 33   | 55  | 4    | 15   | 8    | 5   | 6    | 4  | 29   |
| European Starling      | 204   | 349  | 218 | 480 | 38  | 2451 | 2782 | 524 | 1858 | 2110 | 855  | 225 | 1255 | 70 | 1039 |
| White-eyed Vireo       | 3     |      | 1   |     |     |      |      |     |      |      |      |     |      |    |      |
| Solitary Vireo         | 3     | 4    | 1   |     |     |      | 4    | 1   | 2    | 1    |      |     | 1    |    |      |
| Orange-crown Warbler   | 19    | 3    | 2   |     |     | 1    | 3    | 4   | 3    |      | 1    |     |      |    |      |
| Yellow-rump Warbler    | 5790  | 568  | 258 | 100 | 163 | 454  | 145  | 287 | 125  | 39   | 43   | 25  | 209  | 6  | 145  |
| NAME                   | HAN   | JC   | HAT | NAT | CH  | VIC  | JAC  | WAS | NOX  | SID  | GRE  | SUM | SAR  | ML | ARK  |



| NAME                 | HAN   | JC    | HAT   | NAT   | CH   | VIC   | JAC   | WAS   | NOX   | SID  | GRE   | SUM   | SAR   | ML   | ARK   |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Pine Warbler         | 115   | 26    | 72    | 3     | 3    | 4     | 21    |       | 62    | 2    | 4     |       | 11    |      | 6     |
| Palm Warbler         | 31    | 8     |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |       |
| Black-&-Whi Warbler  |       |       |       |       |      | 1     |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |       |
| Comm Yellowthroat    | 39    | 9     | 4     |       | 2    | 7     | 4     | 7     | 3     |      |       |       |       |      |       |
| Summer Tanager       | 1     |       |       |       | 1    |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |       |
| Northern Cardinal    | 153   | 101   | 162   | 162   | 75   | 743   | 192   | 373   | 148   | 46   | 70    | 127   | 129   | 19   | 210   |
| Eastern Towhee       | 51    | 61    | 50    | 3     | 2    | 34    | 28    | 13    | 54    | 12   | 44    |       | 33    | 1    | 36    |
| Chipping Sparrow     | 84    | 90    | 174   | 61    | 4    | 35    | 190   | 40    | 33    |      |       | 18    | 30    | 4    | 1     |
| Field Sparrow        | 16    | 1     | 52    | 2     | 1    | 19    | 28    | 11    | 15    | 6    | 39    |       | 72    | 1    | 36    |
| Vesper Sparrow       | 17    | 2     | 1     |       |      | 1     | 52    | 3     |       | 1    | 14    |       |       |      |       |
| Savannah Sparrow     | 523   | 117   | 26    | 2     | 15   | 161   | 37    | 91    | 58    | 146  | 201   | 2     | 131   |      | 28    |
| Henslow's Sparrow    |       | 8     |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |       |
| Leconte's Sparrow    | 1     |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |      | 2     |       | 3     |      |       |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 4     | 24    |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |       |
| Seaside Sparrow      | 6     | 5     |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |       |
| Fox Sparrow          |       |       |       |       |      | 5     | 3     | 16    | 3     | 2    | 7     | 2     | 11    |      | 9     |
| Song Sparrow         | 56    | 21    | 21    | 31    | 1    | 82    | 61    | 167   | 168   | 50   | 207   | 33    | 235   |      | 158   |
| Lincoln's Sparrow    | 1     |       | 1     |       |      |       |       | 1     |       | 1    |       |       | CW    |      | 1     |
| Swamp Sparrow        | 184   | 78    | 26    | 3     |      | 41    | 75    | 156   | 234   | 8    | 161   | 2     | 139   | 1    | 10    |
| White-throat Sparrow | 109   | 120   | 174   | 288   | 143  | 1003  | 141   | 371   | 239   | 34   | 337   | 31    | 294   | 20   | 433   |
| White-crown Sparrow  |       |       | 1     | 3     |      | 9     | 1     | 18    | 3     | 10   |       | 28    | 4     | 15   | 3     |
| Dark-eyed Junco      |       | 2     | 14    | 64    | 4    | 134   | 70    | 121   | 56    |      | 38    | 3     | 397   | 23   | 243   |
| Lapland Longspur     |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |       | 1    |       |       |       |      | 5     |
| Red-wingd Blackbird  | 1589  | 1241  | 285   | 3038  | 42   | 2288  | 27758 | 9054  | 1597  | 4300 | 305   | 1380  | 954   | 5000 | 694   |
| Eastern Meadowlark   | 192   | 151   | 59    | 35    | 4    | 227   | 59    | 148   | 171   | 49   | 253   | 3     | 164   | 17   | 176   |
| meadowlark sp.       |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |      |       |       | 75    |      |       |
| Rusty Blackbird      | 30    | 1     | 10    |       | 100  | 3     | 1     | CW    | 22    |      | 234   | 4     | 150   | 54   |       |
| Brewer's Blackbird   | 9     |       |       |       | 20   |       |       |       | 50    | 30   | 10    | 12    | 1     |      |       |
| Boat-tailed Grackle  | 46    | 101   |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |       |
| Common Grackle       | 86    | 56    | 519   | 1264  | 1060 | 2990  | 5090  | 9802  | 2610  | 650  | 2590  | 70    | 3756  | 69   | 8183  |
| Brown-head Cowbird   | 8     | 19    | 130   | 300   |      | 1342  | 213   | 641   | 1830  | 750  | 610   |       | 80    | 300  | 166   |
| blackbird sp.        | 170   |       | 151   | 275   |      | 27    |       |       |       | 7000 | 5000  | 350   | 2560  |      |       |
| Purple Finch         |       |       | 2     |       |      | 15    |       |       | 14    |      |       |       | 1     |      | 35    |
| House Finch          | 17    | 47    | 94    | 65    |      | 89    | 75    | 38    | 5     | 1    |       | 4     | 19    | 17   | 30    |
| Red Crossbill        |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |      |       |       | 4     |      |       |
| Pine Siskin          |       |       | 7     |       |      |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |       |
| American Goldfinch   | 250   | 176   | 409   | 120   | 21   | 308   | 63    | 99    | 87    | 7    | 56    | 2     | 115   | 15   | 114   |
| House Sparrow        | 7     | 9     | 22    | 17    |      | 418   | 6     | 133   | 35    | 50   | 64    | 68    | 43    | 33   | 246   |
| NAME                 | HAN   | JC    | HAT   | NAT   | CH   | VIC   | JAC   | WAS   | NOX   | SID  | GRE   | SUM   | SAR   | ML   | ARK   |
| TOTAL SPECIES        | 152   | 142   | 100   | 84    | 46   | 98    | 106   | 104   | 102   | 86   | 105   | 64    | 105   | 57   | 101   |
| TOTAL BIRDS          | 28676 | 18620 | 16488 | 14789 | 2363 | 21959 | 42474 | 76270 | 18307 |      | 15358 | 9068  | 22333 | 6780 | 33154 |
| # of OBSERVERS       | 21    | 20    | 17    | 7     | 1    | 30    | 21    |       | 25    |      | 10    | 2     | 17    | 2    | 11    |
| # of PARTIES         | 9     | 8     | 6     | 6     | 1    | 14    | 7     |       | 9     |      | 4     | 1     | 6     | 1    | 5     |
| PARTY HOURS          | 91    | 62    | 52    | 30    | 10   | 91    | 66    |       | 81    |      | 37    | 10    | 58    | 10   | 43    |
| DATE                 | 12/30 | 1/4   | 1/1   | 12/21 | 1/2  | 12/22 | 12/28 | 1/5   | 12/21 |      | 12/23 | 12/26 | 12/21 | 1/4  | 12/28 |
| NAME                 | HAN   | JC    | HAT   | NAT   | CH   | VIC   | JAC   | WAS   | NOX   | SID  | GRE   | SUM   | SAR   | ML   | ARK   |

**APOLOGIES!!** Our CBC summary lacks data from the first run of a new Count Area near Tishomingo and the Crows Neck Center where our Fall Meeting was held in October. Only after having David's compilation plugged into the newsletter copy and about to "go top press" did this omission come to mind. What more can I say than, "Sorry folks!" But I can relay a brief summary and comment e-mailed by Carolyn last January (yes I do tend to keep things around a long time!).

"Saturday, December 28, we held our CBC in Tishomingo/Prentiss Counties. Due to poor weather, hunters, and counters that were almost all new to CBC's we probably did pretty well with 73 species. The lake was almost totally void of waterbirds. Buffleheads, pied-billed grebes, common loon, and mallards were the only sightings and they were in small numbers. One immature bald eagle was sighted. We were reluctant to walk too far off roadways due to hunters and some land owners were very curious about our presence. Each group was approached at least once by a landowner and questioned and one group was asked to leave the area."

## JOIN THE FLOCK AND BE PART OF THE SOLUTION! -- Mary Stevens, MMNS

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) is the hallmark event of Partners in Flight (PIF), the international coalition whose mission is to reverse the decline of migratory birds. To celebrate IMBD, the Mississippi PIF Outreach and Education Committee decided that a series of birding events at several locations around the state would better inform the public of the plight of our migratory species. I would like to encourage you, as MOS members, to share your passion for birds at these events (see IMBD events schedule in this issue.) Help others discover the joys of bird watching and the rewards of conservation efforts by joining our Flock. Newcomers to these events may be inspired to join MOS or Mississippi's local Audubon Chapters. An informed, caring community can make a difference. Let's show them how. Join the flock! Take flight with us to welcome these fearless fliers back to a safer, wiser, conservation-minded community--and have a bit of springtime fun, too.

Please call me at 354-7303 or 956-7444, if you would like to volunteer at any of these events. I expect from 100-250 people at each event so I will need your help. Please volunteer and share your birding expertise with others. The 1995 and 1996 IMBD events held at the Pearl River Waterfowl Refuge attracted 300 and 250 people, respectively. The MOS Winter Bird Walk on January 25, 1997 at the same location attracted 90 people enjoying good looks at Bald Eagles, White Pelicans and lots of Waterfowl. A Bald Eagle NestWatch on the Tenn/Tom Waterway in Itawamba County in March of '96 entertained 250 people. The Waterfowl I.D. Day held on February 22, 1997 attracted 50 folks wanting to learn about ducks. These outings are great opportunities to introduce people to new birding areas, increase our membership, and get the word out about the plight of our nongame species.

If you would like brochures, *which contain the information shown in the following section*, to distribute in your area to promote these events, please let me know and I can send all that you need.

### MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

Announces

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Mississippi Native Plant Society

Mississippi Wildlife Federation

Pearl River Valley Water Supply District

*Join the Flock -- Be Part of the Solution!*

## PEARL RIVER WATERFOWL REFUGE, Canton, MS

February 22, 1997 - 10 am-2 pm

This spectacular wildlife preserve encompasses the marshes along the Pearl River offering excellent views of many species of wintering migratory waterfowl. An Observation Tower in the Waterfowl Refuge also offers a great vantage point for observing Pintail, Scaup, Bufflehead, Gadwall, Wigeon, Ring-necked, Mallard, Shoveler, Wood Duck & Green-winged Teal. Raptors will be a special treat, with the possibility of a Bald Eagle.

## MISSISSIPPI SANDHILL CRANE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Gautier, MS

April 5, 1997 - 9 am - 12 noon

Take a walk in a Pine Savannah! Experience the sights and sounds of Mississippi the way our ancestors found it. This unique habitat offers an opportunity to explore Mississippi's most diverse plant communities. Fire and wetland dependent plants, such as carnivorous pitcher plants, will be in bloom. Mist netting neotropical migrants to document early arrivals from Latin America will allow bird-in-the-hand views of those species at the greatest risk of decline.

Call the Refuge for directions & information. 601/497-6322

## PEARL RIVER WATERFOWL REFUGE, Canton, MS

April 26, 1997 - 10 am - 2 pm

## EAGLE/HERON NESTWATCH

Witness the come back of an endangered species! A pair of nesting Bald Eagles will be a special treat, hopefully with young in the nest. Trip includes a 1/4 mile walk through bottomland hardwoods to a heronry located in a Tupelo Gum-Cypress Swamp with great views of nesting Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets and Anhingas. Also, hike Jack's Ridge Nature Trail and Arboretum (one mile) with approximately 175 labeled native Mississippi plants.

## ST. CATHERINE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Natchez, MS

May 3, 1997 - 10 am - 2 pm

This refuge located near the historic river town of Natchez offers a special opportunity to view a colony of nesting waterbirds including Great Blue & Little Blue Herons, Snowy, Cattle & Great Egrets & Anhingas in a Cypress swamp. There will be lots of activity at this site with young in the nests. There is also the outside possibility for spotting Osprey & Bald Eagle, as well as some non-avian species. Call Terri Jacobson-Manzo at US Fish & Wildlife Service, 965-4900 ext 30.

## LEFLEUR'S BLUFF STATE PARK, Jackson, MS

May 10, 1997 - 7:30 am -11:30

Beautiful bottomland hardwood forests, Cypress swamps, and oxbow lakes situated on the Pearl River, make this urban park rich with a variety of birds during spring migration. Parula, American Redstart, Prothonotary, and Yellow Warblers are just a few of the showy migrants to search for on this trip. Join Naturalist Ken Hackman on a Youth Walk suitable for ages 10-16. Limit 15. Call Ken Hackman for directions & more information. 601/853-2719

## TENNESSEE/ TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY, Fulton, MS

## BALD EAGLE NESTWATCH

May 17, 1997 8 am - 12 noon

The levees of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tenn/Tom Waterway offer great vantage points for

observing nesting Great Blue Herons in a Cypress Break and two Osprey nests. A pair of Bald Eagles are building a new nest at this site. If the birds are successful, there should be young in the nests of all of these magnificent birds at the time of this event. Call Doug Blount for directions. 601/327-2142

**ST. CATHERINE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Natchez, MS**

August 16, 1997 7 am - 3 pm

The best kept birding secret in Mississippi. It will be HOT but shorebird migration is a great opportunity to view 10,000+ birds at this stopover site. Birds on their way south include Western, Least, Pectoral & Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Yellowlegs, & Black-necked Stilts. Wood Stork, Roseate Spoonbills, White Pelican, and Bald Eagle are good possibilities, along with hundreds of herons, egrets & White Ibis. Call Mary Stevens at the Museum for more information. 601/354-7303.

***About Partners in Flight***

Partners in Flight -- Aves de las Americas -- was launched in 1991 as a cooperative effort to halt the decline of migratory birds. The causes of this trend are many, but the most devastating impacts occur from the destruction and fragmentation of important habitats in the U.S., Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. The good news is that committed organizations and individuals are working to solve the problem, before it becomes too late or too expensive to save these birds. Partners in Flight uses habitat management and protection, professional training, and public education to develop proactive solutions to the problem. Many federal and state agencies, private conservation organizations and the forest products industry are involved in this cooperative effort. These birding events reflect the public's growing interest in "watchable wildlife." Events will focus attention on the need to conserve wildlife habitats--without them, there will be no birds! Come celebrate the lives of birds and learn what you can do to stop the decline of our songbird populations.

For More Information & Directions to Events: Call the phone number provided for each event or call Mary Stevens at the Museum of Natural Science, 601/354-7303. Field trips will be guided by refuge staff and local birding experts. Spotting scopes for "up-close" views of birds will be available. Bring binoculars, snacks, water, hat, rain gear, rubber boots, sunscreen & sunglasses - - depending on site and weather. All Events Are Free

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**NEWS FROM FAR AFIELD**

For lack of space, the considerable News From the Field for the winter season must be omitted, except to say that Oxford folks have been pleased that so many birders from other parts were able to see the Red Crossbills hanging out at Pat's Bluff on Sardis Lake. With the space remaining, we'll report on some far afield birding by our intrepid Judy Toups. On a January trip to Massachusetts, Judy added a 1st Class Lifer, the Boreal Owl! For this she had to take a train, a subway, and walk 6 blocks in snow and frigid cold through the wilds of Boston. She said, "For this the owl obliged by dropping a pellet at my feet--is that luck or what?!"

Judy's statement deserved a place in the recent e-mail "contest" to express best the idea "You know that you are a bird fanatic when..." -- Judy's completion seemingly being "when you consider it great luck to have a rare owl barf a nasty object at your feet!" Don't you suppose that the owl wasn't intending it as a compliment, Judy?

Many readers will also envy Judy for some fine "non-lifers": King Eider, Snowy Owl, Razorbill, Northern Shrike and Iceland Gulls. Yum, yum!

**CALLING ATTENTION TO RECENT ORNITHOLOGICAL WRITINGS  
ANOTHER MISSISSIPPI AUTHOR IN BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA (BNA) SERIES**

Apologies to **Paul Hammel**, author of the monograph on Bachman's Warbler for BNA (an exhaustive series of life-history studies), who was omitted from a recent listing of Mississippi authors of monographs in this series. He resides at Greenville and is a federal employee at the Stoneville facility of USDA. [Thanks to Ed Alexander for calling attention to this oversight.]

**MISSISSIPPI NATIVE, MOS "ALUMNUS," AUTHORS RECENT PAPER**

Malcolm F. Hodges, Jr., native of Ocean Springs, was 1st author with David G. Krementz of a paper in the September 1996 issue of *Wilson Bulletin*. The paper is titled "Neotropical Migratory Breeding Bird Communities in Riparian Forests of Different Widths Along the Altamaha River, Georgia." Both species richness and abundance for 3 out of 6 focal species increased with width of forest corridor. This suggests that Neotropical bird communities could be aided if land managers would leave a 100-m undisturbed riparian-forest buffer-strip along rivers.

**MISSISSIPPI AUTHORS IN OTHER CURRENT PUBLICATIONS**

MOSers had the 1st two articles in a recent bird magazine:

Jerome A. Jackson, "Snowbird Season," *Birder's World*, 11(1) 16-20, February 1997 issue. *Juncos--Juncos!*

Judith A. Toups "A Passion for Hummers," in same issue, *Birder's World*, 11(1), 22-26, February 1997 issue, told about Bob and Martha Sargent's exciting life with hummingbirds. Also appearing--

Jerome A. Jackson, in "A Hankerin' to Hammer," *Birder's World* 11(2), 16-21, April 1997 issue, tells of N. Flickers' excavating behavior, including that directed toward insulation of a NASA shuttle fuel tank!

W. Marvin Davis, "Simultaneous Harassment of a Great Horned Owl by Several Smaller Birds," and "Sabine's Gull in the Oklahoma Panhandle Opportunistically Feeds on Grasshoppers" appeared in *Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithol. Soc.* 29(3,4): 23-24 and 35-36, Sept. & Dec. 1996.

**AND A PAPER ESPECIALLY FOR RCW FANS!**

In the December 1996 issue of *Wilson Bulletin* (vol. 108, no.4, pp. 697-711) an article appeared entitled "Red-cockaded Woodpecker Nesting Success, Forest Structure and Southern Flying Squirrels in Texas," by R.N. Conner, D.C. Rudolph, D. Saenz and R.R. Schaefer of the USDA Forest Service. In brief, their data tend to refute the idea that the presence of flying squirrels is detrimental to the woodpecker's breeding success but to confirm that mid-story hardwoods need removal.

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**1997 SPRING MOS MTG. RESERVATION FORM:**

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\_\_\_\_\_ Registration Fees @ \$5.00 ea. \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete, cut and send to: JOREE PENNELL, 113 Sunhaven Drive, Ocean Springs, MS 39564



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**MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**Organized 30 April 1955**

ALLAN J. MUELLER  
President  
4308 Shenandoah Road  
Vicksburg, MS 39180

CAROLYN JARNAGIN  
Secretary  
1012 Washington Street  
Corinth, MS 38834-4739

SHANNON KNIGHT  
Vice-President  
79 Highway 9W  
Oxford, MS 38677

JANET DUBUISSON  
Treasurer  
22410 Glad Acres  
Pass Christian, MS 39571

W. MARVIN DAVIS  
Editor: MOS Newsletter  
308 Lewis Lane, Oxford 38655  
FAX: 232-5148; E-mail:  
marvdavs@olemiss.edu

JEROME A. JACKSON  
Editor: Mississippi Kite  
Dept. of Biological Sciences  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
E-mail: picus@ra.MSSTATE.edu

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All persons interested in Mississippi bird life are invited to join MOS. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGES -- Annual Dues:** Sustaining, \$30; Family, \$25; Individual/Regular, \$15; Student/Senior, \$10; Subscribing (libraries only), \$10; Life Membership, \$300. All membership classes receive the MISSISSIPPI KITE semi-annually, and the quarterly MOS NEWSLETTER seasonally. **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



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**FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:**

April '97 Spring Meeting; International  
Migratory Bird Day Activities; '96 Christmas  
Bird Counts; Waiting for Winter to be Spring.  
(Check Address Label--**RED** means your dues are **OVER**due!  
Please note [back cover] new rates--