

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Founded in 1955 to promote scientific research and encourage greater appreciation of native birds.

Volume 45, Number 2

June 2000



Ictinia mississippiensis

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**MOS OFFICERS
AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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AMERICAN BIRDS: Terence Schiefer, State Editor

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAYS: Mary Stevens, MMNS

MISSISSIPPI BIRD INFORMATION

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"CALL NOTES"

BY SHANNON KNIGHT
M.O.S. PRESIDENT



The weekend of the Spring meeting was one of those weekends that you just didn't want to end! We were grateful for the beautiful weather on Friday evening so that we could all visit and have our bar-b-que out on the deck.

Saturday was just glorious, weatherwise and birdwise. A list of the birds seen that weekend follows. We started our Saturday field trip with a hike around the beautiful lake at Wall Doxey State Park. It was an easy hour and a half walk. Then we divided into two groups and met back at the Visitor's Center that evening. The banquet meal was absolutely delicious and we want to thank Norma and the restaurant staff, as well as Lyle Richardson, Park Manager, for making our stay at the park so enjoyable.

Our thanks and gratitude to Jesse Grantham, our Saturday evening speaker, for giving us some very pertinent and practical information regarding backyard habitats. We were also very pleased that Jesse brought along two of his new staff members, Jim Nolan, Center Director, and Bill Haldeman, Horticulturist, on both Friday and Saturday evenings. Jesse, Jim, and Bill gave us a birding tour of the Strawberry Plains area, yielding Grasshopper Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow to everyone's delight. They graciously took us through the lovely Strawberry Plains Plantation home, giving us some background information as to how Audubon came to be in Holly Springs, MS.

An interesting sidelight to the Strawberry Plains visit on Sunday... Terri Jacobson-Manzo had commented that she bet if the caps were removed from those big chimneys that Chimney Swifts would move in. After everyone left on Sunday, Gene, Jesse, Bill, and Jim were talking about the chimneys and decided to get out the ladders and go up on the roof to see if the caps could be removed, but found that they could

not. They did remove the cap from the chimney of the small nearby house and within minutes two Chimney Swifts had entered! That bug you put in their ears paid off, Terri!

Our resident Carolina Wrens made a nest in the wreath on our deck. Most of you who came Friday evening saw the babies' heads bobbing inside the nest. As they grew larger, we wondered how in the world there was enough room in that nest for five baby birds. One morning we found two of the nestlings that had fallen out of the nest and died. Gene disposed of the tiny things and Momma Wren went on with the feeding and caring of the remaining three. It seemed that they grew overnight and soon left the nest. Empty Nest Syndrome—I had it bad! I had watched those babies for weeks and despaired over the two that died. We now wake up each morning to the lively "chirpity-chirpity-chirpity-chirp" of this adorable little family.

As I finish up another year of teaching third grade (28 to be exact!) I will take a week of rest and regain my sanity. Then Gene and I will be heading west toward Yellowstone. As many of you go on birding trips this summer, please take notes and write about your adventures and sightings for the newsletter. You don't even have to type it. Just send it to me at the address on back.

We have put together and enclosed an updated membership directory. Please let me know about any corrections that need to be made.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the Fall meeting in October. Carolyn Jarnigan is organizing the meeting. New members—please don't be shy. Come and join us in October!

Minutes of the MOS Spring Meeting

The Friday evening social at the Knight's was very enjoyable, with good food and fellowship. Watching the birds from their "treehouse" was a real treat!

After the delicious meal Saturday evening President Shannon Knight welcomed members and visitors, thanked field trip leaders, and called the meeting to order. She reported that the Board is looking into purchasing a slide projector and checking into cleaning and displaying our Tucker Award. She also reported on the improved health of Bill Turcotte and Ed Alexander.

Jan Dubuisson gave the Treasurer's Report, stating also that the MOS Board had approved the purchase of metal signs for the Gulf Coast Least Tern colonies.

Allan Mueller reported on progress with Important Birding Areas; Terri Jacobson-Manzo gave notice of a public meeting regarding management alternatives of Double-crested Cormorants; Terry Schiefer encouraged members to submit documentation to the Bird Records Committee; and Marion Schiefer announced dates

for the Spring Migration Count. Gene Knight conducted the species tally, totalling 150.

Dr. Marvin Davis was presented a plaque and Honorary Membership for his many years of faithful service as MOS Newsletter Editor and for his many contributions to birds and birding in our state.

After the presentation, Jesse Grantham, Executive Director of the Mississippi State Office of the National Audubon Society, Strawberry Plains, Holly Springs, gave a very informative program on how to create beneficial habitats for birds in our own backyards. He urged us to educate ourselves about native plants that are good for wildlife and to share this information with others to increase habitats. It was announced that the Fall meeting will be at J. P. Coleman State Park on October 27-29. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dianne Patterson

REMINDER

For those participating in the Yard List Contest (Sept. 1, 1999–Sept. 1, 2000)
we hope that you are continuing to tally your list.

This will be your last reminder before the deadline.

Please mail to Gene and Shannon Knight, 79 Hwy. 9W, Oxford, MS 38655.

Good Luck!

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Species List

M.O.S. Spring Meeting

April 28-30, 2000

Lafayette, Marshall, Panola, and Tallahatchie Counties

Pied-billed Grebe	Stilt Sandpiper
American White Pelican	Ring-billed Gull
Double-crested Cormorant	Herring Gull
Great Blue Heron	Forster's Tern
Great Egret	Rock Dove
Little Blue Heron	Eurasian Collared-Dove
Cattle Egret	Mourning Dove
Green Heron	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Snow Goose	Barred Owl
Canada Goose	Common Nighthawk
Wood Duck	Chuck-will's widow
Mallard	Chimney Swift
Blue-winged Teal	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Northern Shoveler	Belted Kingfisher
Gadwall	Red-headed Woodpecker
American Wigeon	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Black Vulture	Downy Woodpecker
Turkey Vulture	Hairy Woodpecker
Osprey	Northern Flicker
Mississippi Kite	Pileated Woodpecker
Bald Eagle	Eastern Wood-Pewee
Northern Harrier	Acadian Flycatcher
Cooper's Hawk	Eastern Phoebe
Red-shouldered Hawk	Great Crested Flycatcher
Broad-winged Hawk	Eastern Kingbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Purple Martin
American Kestrel	Tree Swallow
Northern Bobwhite	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
American Coot	Bank Swallow
Black-bellied Plover	Cliff Swallow
Killdeer	Barn Swallow
Black-necked Stilt	Blue Jay
Greater Yellowlegs	American Crow
Lesser Yellowlegs	Fish Crow
Solitary Sandpiper	Carolina Chickadee
Spotted Sandpiper	Tufted Titmouse
Least Sandpiper	Reb-breasted Nuthatch
Pectoral Sandpiper	White-breasted Nuthatch

Carolina Wren
Sedge Wren
Marsh Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Cedar Waxwing
Loggerhead Shrike
European Starling
White-eyed Vireo
Solitary Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue-winged Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Northern Parula
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Pine Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Palm Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
American Redstart
Prothonotary Warbler
Worm-eating Warbler
Swainson's Warbler
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Louisiana Waterthrush
Kentucky Warbler
Common Yellowthroat

Hooded Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Dickcissel
Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
House Finch
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow

Total Species: 150

LOOKING AHEAD: FALL 2000 MEETING

Where: J. P. Coleman State Park

When: October 27-29 – RESERVE THE WEEKEND!

Nearby parks and motels are listed below. You might want to call the state parks early for reservations.

J. P. Coleman State Park	662-423-6515
Tishomingo State Park	662-438-6914
Hampton Inn	662-286-5949
Comfort Inn	662-287-4421
Executive Inn	1-800-354-3932
Holiday Inn Express	662-287-1407

More detailed information will be provided in the September Newsletter.

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Mississippi Ornithological Society

Membership Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

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___ Individual, \$15 yr.

___ Subscribing (libraries), \$10 yr.

___ Family, \$25 yr.

___ Sustaining, \$30 yr.

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Send to: Janet Dubuisson, MOS Treasurer

22410 Glad Acres

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Dues are payable in January of each year. Check mailing label for your dues status.

Mississippi Ornithological Society

79 Highway 9 W

Oxford, MS 38655

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