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Compiled by: W. H. TURCOTTE

Christmas Bird Count - Jackson Area

Participating in the 61st CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT on January 2, 1961, were the following persons: Miss Christina Barry, B. E. Gandy, John H. Phares, W. H. Turcotte, and Mrs. W. G. Wills, Jr.

The count was taken within a fifteen-mile diameter circle centering at the intersection of Berry and Gault Streets in Jackson, Mississippi. The area of observation was approximately 10 percent deciduous bottomland, 10 percent hardwood upland, 4 percent pine forest, 18 percent conifers and hardwoods, 5 percent parks and cemeteries, and 40 percent open land, pasture, and weedy fields, 3 percent wooded lakes, 4 percent open lakes, 1 percent marsh, and 5 percent residential area.

The five observers on this count were divided into two parties, starting at 7:00 A. M. and concluding at 5:00 P. M. They totaled 20 party hours - 14 hours on foot, 6 hours in car - and traveled 121 party-miles - 6 on foot, 115 by car.

The total of 13,958 individuals included: Pied-billed Grebe, 13; Great Blue Heron, 4; Wood Duck, 2; Lesser Scaup 119; Ruddy Duck, 13; Turkey Vulture, 5; Black Vulture, 13; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 9; Bobwhite, 13; Killdeer, 29; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 23; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 33; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 9; Red-headed Woodpecker, 35; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 19; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Eastern Phoebe, 2; Blue Jay, 43; Common Crow, 36; Fish Crow, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 36; Tufted Titmouse, 34; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 13; Brown Creeper, 10; Winter Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 16; Mockingbird, 31; Brown Thrasher, 26; Robin, 11; Hermit Thrush, 9; Eastern Bluebird, 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 37; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 28; Water Pipit, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 7; Loggerhead Shrike, 27; Starling, 1650; Solitary Vireo, 1; Orange-crowned Warbler, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 20; Pine Warbler, 6; Yellowthroat, 3; House Sparrow, 169; Eastern Meadowlark, 90; Red-winged Blackbird, 125; Rusty Blackbird, 10; Common Grackle, 9550; Brown-headed Cowbird, 50; Cardinal, 73; Purple Finch, 3; American Goldfinch, 21; Rufous-sided Towhee, 49; Savannah Sparrow, 13; Slate-colored Junco, 22; Field Sparrow, 36; White-throated Sparrow, 1275; Fox Sparrow, 3; Swamp Sparrow, 34; Song Sparrow, 15.

As you may recall 9 members counted 78 species on the same date last year. Birds counted on January 2, 1960, but not found January 2, 1961, are: Common Egret, 2; Mallard, 8; Ring-necked Duck, 10; Bufflehead, 3; American Coot, 1;

Common Snipe, 2; Great-horned Owl, 1; Burrowing Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Say's Phoebe, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Bewick's Wren, 1; LeConte's Sparrow, 1; Vesper Sparrow, 12; Chipping Sparrow, 6.

Birds counted this year but not in 1960: Ring-billed Gull, 1; Fish Crow, 1; Solitary Vireo, 1; Orange-crowned Warbler, 3. Compiled by B. E. Gandy

Wintering Catbird

Several weeks after the migration peak of Catbirds I saw a lone bird in my yard on numerous occasions. During the busy Christmas season I did not have a chance to look at, or for anything, but the kitchen stove! But last Sunday (January 8), Bedford and I watched a Catbird make several flights onto the window sill in the living room. Since my screens are on the inside, I am wondering if the bird thought its reflection was another his(or her) kind. At any rate, this must be a wintering bird, a nice visitor to have! Ethel Floyd, Gulfport, Miss.

Additional Birds of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta - By M. G. Vaiden

This is the twelfth paper in a series. Ten papers have been published in the Migrant. This is the second in Occasional Papers.

Continued appreciation goes to Dr. Alexander Wetmore and Mr. Thomas Burleigh for assigning birds to subspecies. All birds collected are in the collection of M. G. Vaiden, Rosedale, Mississippi.

Eastern Piping Plover, Charadrius m. melodus. Two specimens were secured August 30, 1960, from a sandbar. One of the specimens was an adult male; sex organs were destroyed in the other. Burleigh secured only one bird from the Gulf coast of Mississippi.

Black-bellied Plover, Squatarola squatarola. Two specimens were secured October 8, 1960, for the first collections north of the Mississippi Coast. Both birds were adult males. Burleigh found this bird common on the Mississippi Gulf coast.

Hudsonian Curlew (Whimbrel), Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus. Prior to this collection on August 29, 1960, the species had been observed only twice in north Mississippi. The bird taken was an adult male and very fat. Burleigh found this bird very seldom on the Coast and collected only one specimen.

American Knot (Sandpiper), Calidris canutus rufa. On August 29, 1960, two of these beautiful birds were taken. Both were adult males, and very fat. Burleigh collected three on the Coast in eight years of intensive collecting. This is our first observation in forty-two years of collecting in this area.

Baird's Sandpiper, Erolia bairdii. This bird proved to be plentiful this fall during the greatest of our shore bird migration. Six specimens were taken. Ray and Vaiden collected this species for the first collection in Mississippi October 14, 1937, from the sandbar. Burleigh saw and collected only one from the Coast of Mississippi.

Interior Short-billed Dowitcher, Limnodromus griseus hendersoni. An adult female of this species was taken August 29, 1960, from the sandbar. There is no published record of this subspecies having been secured in this state.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Tryngites subruficollis. This species became common during the migration and eight specimens were secured. Forty-two birds were seen in two flocks on one day. These are the first specimens taken north of the coast of Mississippi. Burleigh secured one bird on the Coast. From August 29 to September 17, these birds appeared daily.

American Avocet, Recurvirostra americana. On October 22, 1960, a single specimen of this beautiful bird was taken. It is a male in good plumage. This is the second collection in this county. Burleigh failed to collect a specimen on the Coast.

Yukon Western Wood Pewee, Contopus sordidulus veliei. Alan Feduccia located this bird on Jones Bayou, at Cleveland, September 10, 1960. It is an immature female. The bird was sent to U. S. National Museum where Dr. Wetmore and Tom Burleigh assigned the bird to the subspecies given here. We can find no record of this bird having been taken east of western Texas.

Newfoundland Hermit Thrush, Hyalocichla guttata crymophila. On April 16, 1960, an adult female of this species was taken at Old River Lake and was assigned to this subspecies by Thomas Burleigh. I can find no record of this form having been secured in Mississippi.

Northern Black-throated Blue Warbler, Dendroica c. caerulescens. On October 21, 1960, an immature female of this species was taken on Jones Bayou. The bird was located by Alan Feduccia and was collected later by the writer and Feduccia. It is the first specimen taken north of the Mississippi coast. Burleigh found the bird very rare on the Coast.

Western Yellowthroat, Geothlypis trichas occidentalis. A specimen sent to Dr. Wetmore was assigned to this subspecies. The bird was taken February 19, 1956, at Boles Lake. This subspecies has not been taken in Mississippi other than one specimen by Thomas Burleigh from the Coast.

Western Grasshopper Sparrow, Ammodramus s. perpallidus. This species was taken April 1, 1954, at Legion Lake. It was assigned to this subspecies by Dr. Wetmore. Tom Burleigh collected a specimen on the Mississippi coast.

Without the great assistance of Alan Feduccia, Billy Smith-Vaniz, and Edgar Grissom, my collection of birds would not reach the quota of rare birds for this area that it now has acquired. These young men give me an extra six pairs of eyes, legs, and hands. For their ages, there are no other boys to compare with them in the Southern States; they know the birds. From Mississippi Delta Naturalists' Club, Occasional Papers, Vol. 1, No. 2, December 15, 1960.

Some Mississippi Coast Observations, by Alan Feduccia

On April 30, 1960, Dr. R. A. Carlton, Dr. H. J. Jacob, myself, and the Delta State College field zoology class invaded the Gulf coast region of Mississippi. Dr. Jacob collected botanical specimens, Dr. Carlton and the class collected marine forms, while the writer collected birds for the Delta State College museum. The following are accounts of some of the rarities seen on the Gulf coast at Ocean Springs, Mississippi, and Deer Island.

White Pelican (Pelecanus erythrorhynchos). Two birds of this species were observed flying near Deer Island on April 30, 1960. During the eight-year period that Burleigh spent on the Mississippi coast, he observed this species only once. On October 20, 1940, he saw a flock containing six individuals in the harbor at Gulfport, Mississippi. It is possible that a storm with strong southeast winds on the night of April 29, 1960, was responsible for the appearance of these two birds on April 30.

Man-o'-War-Bird (Fregata magnificens). The occurrence of four Man-o'-War-Birds on April 30, 1960, was probably due to the storm on the previous night. These four birds were seen flying low over the Gulf near Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Burleigh's earliest record for this species on the coast was twelve birds seen at Gulfport, Mississippi, on May 6, 1941, after three days of strong southeast winds.

Hudsonian Curlew (Numenius phaeopus). Two birds of this species were seen in the salt marshes on Deer Island, on April 30, 1960. Burleigh observed the Hudsonian Curlew at infrequent intervals during the spring on Deer Island.

White-rumped Sandpiper (Frolia fuscicollis). A male of this species was taken in the salt marshes on Deer Island, on April 30, 1960. The bird was feeding with a group of about 10 Least Sandpipers, and 15 Semipalmated Sandpipers. The preserved specimen is in the collection of M. G. Vaiden.

Black Tern (Chlidonias Niger). One Black Tern was observed near Ocean Springs, on April 30, 1960. The Black Tern is a rather scarce transient in the spring on the Mississippi coast.

Cabot's Tern (Thalasseus sandvicensis). A female of this species was taken in the Gulf near Deer Island, on April 30, 1960. The Cabot's Tern is the least common of the terns occurring on the Mississippi coast. The preserved specimen is in the Delta State College research collection.

Literature Cited:

Burleigh, Thomas D., 1944. The Bird Life of the Gulf Coast Region of Mississippi, Occas. Papers Mus. Zool., Louisiana State University, 20: 324-490

Delta Naturalists' Club, Occasional Papers, Vol. 1, No. 2.

Christmas Count, Bayou Caddy (Hancock County), December 25, 1960

At the last minute, I decided to make a one-man count at Bayou Caddy. I didn't expect a large list with just one observer since I had not tried a full-fledged count there before. I got 102 species which is just what I expected --

I just could not cover enough ground to get all the common species. I have enclosed a list with species checked. Also, on the card you will see "0"'s marked after certain species -- these are species which I have seen there this winter and know to be common but missed on the count. A college student here in New Orleans named Sidney Gauthreau has spent quite a bit of time birding around Lakeshore. He knows where to find about a dozen additional species which are permanent residents there. Altogether, I'm sure that 3 to 5 parties can turn up a list of over 135 species or possibly 140 there. I am making arrangements now for a count there next year and have promise of 3 or 4 parties from New Orleans. I hope that I will be around then, and fully expect that I will. We should have a good count. I hope that some of the Jackson people will plan to come. We will start talking it up next year well in advance.

I was on the Cameron, Louisiana, count last week. We got 153 species. I had a boat trip and got 110. By far, that is the best I've ever done from a boat. The interesting species I had include 130 Roseate Spoonbills, Harris Sparrow, Oldsquaw, Reddish Egret, Short-eared Owl, and Vermillion Flycatcher. Newman had a Roughlegged Hawk. The day after the count I collected a black buteo which Newman and Lowery (who were with me) could not identify. They have the specimen.

Another count was made at Venice, Louisiana. Two parties (Sid Gauthreau and myself with John Delime of the Refuge) got 132 species. Sid collected an Ash-throated Flycatcher. They have a lot of waterfowl down that way.

The list of species observed on the above Bayou Caddy Christmas count follows (0 following name indicates species commonly seen this winter but missed on the count): Loon, Common; Grebe, Horned; Grebe, Pied-billed; Cormorant, Double-cr.; Heron, Great Blue; Heron, Little Blue (0); Egret, Common; Egret, Snowy; Heron, Louisiana; Heron, Bl.-cr. Night (0); Goose, Snow (0); Goose, Blue (0); Mallard (0); Duck, Black (0); Duck, Mottled (0); Gadwall; Pintail (0); Teal, Green-w.; Teal, Blue-w.; Widgeon, American; Shoveler (0); Duck, Wood; Redhead; Duck, Ring-n.; Scaup, Lesser; Goldeneye, Common; Bufflehead. Lovett E. Williams, New Orleans, La. (Continued on Page 7)

Coast Notes

I have gained the impression that the diving birds and shore birds are more numerous this fall than last and believe that ducks are also somewhat more abundant, although Mr. John Walther informed me that his census work indicates the ducks to be about the same numerically as last year.

Specific items which may be of interest are:

Two Harlan's hawks Buteo harlani near the city dump of Gulfport on 12 November. When first observed these birds were sitting on separate, dead pine trees and I thought they were melanistic Red-tailed hawks, but when one flew and the whitish tail came into view the true identification became apparent. The distal portion of the tail was mottled very heavily with black, so I am confident of the identification of one of these birds. The other buteo was some distance away and did not fly so my identification of this hawk is unconfirmed in my mind. The birds were not seen subsequently on several visits to the area over a period of a week or more.

Bonaparte's gulls Larus philadelphia first appeared in the Gulfport area on 10 December this year.

On 15 December a flock of 28 Old-squaw duck, Clangula hyemalis, were discovered about 100 yards offshore in Mississippi Sound opposite the Gulf Coast Military Academy. When first seen the birds were closely bunched on the water and were apparently feeding on a school of fish for they would dive and immerse from the water as a bunch. The birds could not be counted while on the water, but only when they flew. Identification is based upon the white, piebald appearance of the bodies on the water and in flight, the black and white bodies with black wings as well as the manner of flight (low over the water with many twists and turns producing a striking effect with the breasts and backs appearing alternately). The flock was studied for over half an hour both on the water and in flight on several occasions using a Bal-scope. I consider this to be a positive identification.

The day before yesterday, 27 December, I discovered a Western (Arkansas) kingbird, Tyrannus verticalis, near the commercial harbor of Gulfport. The bird was actively hawking insects. Identification was made upon the general body plumage (gray head and back, white chin blending into a gray throat and yellow belly). Although Cassin's flycatcher and Tropical flycatchers might conceivably occur in this area, they could easily be ruled out in this instance because of the black, square tail of this individual bird with narrow white sides. These features were plainly visible at a distance of about 15 to 20 yards. I was unable to make out the red crown mark.

That's about the extent of the interesting birding in the area as far as I am concerned. I might mention the fact that I saw nine Sandhill cranes in one flock some 5 miles north of Ocean Springs (on land of the St. Regis Paper Company) on 15 December. This is the largest number of these birds which I have seen in one flock in this region. Dr. Henry D. Haberyan, Gulfport, Mississippi

Editor's Note: On the afternoon of January 5, 1961, John H. Phares and WHT observed a Western Kingbird, apparently this same one and actively feeding on insects, in front of Simpson Canning Company plant in the same area described. The bird could not be located again on January 12 when I was in the same area looking for it.

Notes From the North of Us

Birds that are news to the North: Purple Sandpiper, Battle Creek, Michigan; Snowy Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, Red-crossbills, White-winged Crossbills, all very numerous at Marquette, Michigan; Snow Buntings, Red-crossbills, very numerous at Quincy, Illinois; Snowy Owls at Boston, Long Island, Cincinnati, Ohio, all of the birds in recent weeks. Nashville had Snowy Owl last week. I discovered Snow Bunting for a first Memphis record 11/2 to 11/7/60, individual in fall plumage. We are looking for Snowy Owls, Crossbills and Rough-legged Hawks. In hackberries, box elder, ash-leaved maple we are looking for evening grosbeaks. A Palm warbler was counted on the Christmas census 12/26/60. Contributed by Oliver F. Irwin, Memphis, Tennessee

New State Record - Black-necked Stilt

Lovett E. Williams and Sterling G. Clawson observed 7 Black-necked stilts on the filled-in-marsh grounds of a chemical plant east of Pascagoula on Bayou Casotte, Jackson County, on September 24, 1960. An immature specimen, collected by Williams on September 24 is in the Game and Fish Commission museum collection. Sterling Clawson observed 4 stilts in the same area again on October 1. Two weeks later none were observed by Clawson in the same area.

White-fronted Goose

A single white-fronted goose was observed at the edge of the marsh immediately west of Heron Bay, Hancock County, by Sterling G. Clawson and Lovett E. Williams on January 15, 1961. The bird was in flight at a distance of 100 yards and positively identified as this species.

Glaucous Gull Collected Near Pascagoula

Lovett E. Williams and Sterling G. Clawson observed and collected (by Mr. Williams) an immature Glaucous Gull on January 14, 1961, in an area south of the L & N Railroad and immediately west of the East Pascagoula River in Jackson County. This single specimen was among a large number of Herring and Ring-billed gulls and constitutes the first known collection record for the state. Burleigh records a single sight record for this species at Gulfport on December 22, 1941, in The Bird Life of the Gulf Coast Region.

List of species observed on Bayou Caddy Christmas count (continued from page 5)
Merganser, Hooded; Merganser, Red-breasted; Vulture, Turkey; Vulture, Black; Hawk, Sharp-shin; Hawk, Cooper's; Hawk, Red-tailed; Hawk, Red-should; Hawk, Marsh; Hawk, Sparrow; Bobwhite; Rail, King; Rail, Clapper; Rail, Virginia (0); Sora; Gallinule, Common; Coot, American; Plover, Semipalm; Plover, Piping; Killdeer; Plover, Black-bellied; Turnstone, Ruddy; Snipe, Common; Sandpiper, Spot. (0); Willet (0); Yellowlegs, Great (0); Yellowlegs, Lesser (0); Sandpiper, Least (0); Dunlin; Dowitcher, Short-b (0); Sandpiper, Semipalmated; Sandpiper, Western (0); Sanderling; Gull, Herring; Gull, Ring-billed; Gull, Laughing; Gull, Bonaparte's; Tern, Forster's; Tern, Common (0); Tern, Royal (0); Tern, Caspian; Skimmer, Black (0); Dove, Mourning; Owl, Barn (0); Owl, Screech (0); Owl, Great Horned (0); Owl, Barred (0); Kingfisher, Belted; Flicker, Yellow-sh.; Woodpecker, Pileated (0); Woodpecker, Red-bellied; Woodpecker, Red-headed; Sapsucker, Yellow-b.; Woodpecker, Hairy; Woodpecker, Downy; Kingbird, Western; Phoebe, Eastern; Swallow, Tree; Jay, Blue; Crow, Common; Crow, Fish (0); Chickadee, Carolina; Titmouse, Tufted; Nuthatch, Brown-headed; Creeper, Brown; Wren, House; Wren, Winter; Wren, Carolina; Wren, Long-b. Marsh; Wren, Short-b. Marsh; Mockingbird; Catbird (0); Thrasher, Brown; Robin; Thrush, Hermit (0); Bluebird, Eastern; Gnatcatcher, Blue-g.; Kinglet, Golden-cr.; Kinglet, Ruby-crowned; Pipit, Water; Waxwing, Cedar (0); Shrike, Loggerhead; Starling; Vireo, Solitary; Warbler, Orange-cr.; Warbler, Myrtle; Warbler, Pine; Warbler, Palm; Yellowthroat; Sparrow, House; Meadowlark, East.; Blackbird, Red-winged; Grackle, Boat-t.; Grackle, Common; Cowbird, Brown-h. (0); Cardinal; Finch, Purple (0); Goldfinch, Am.; Towhee, Rufous-s.; Sparrow, Savannah; Sparrow, Sharp-tailed; Sparrow, Seaside; Sparrow, Vester (0); Junco, Slate-col. (0); Sparrow, Chipping (0); Sparrow, Field; Sparrow, White-throated; Sparrow, Swamp; Sparrow, Song