

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955

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CHRISTMAS COUNT

BAYOU CADDY - PASS CHRISTIAN, DECEMBER 23, 1961

Parties:

- I - Dr. Henry D. Haberyan; Carl H. Struck, Jr.; John Walther (boat party, St. Louis Bay to East Pearl River and offshore)
- II - W. H. Turcotte, Mrs. C. H. Cleveland, Mrs. W. G. Wills, B. E. Gandy, Christine Berry (inland and Pass Christian)
- III - S. G. Clawson, John H. Phares, Mac Myers (shoreline from St. Louis Bay to Bayou Caddy and miscellaneous points inland)
- IV - Lovett E. Williams (boat party, Bayou Caddy, Heron Bay, and miscellaneous points along shoreline and inland)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Common Loon	0	2	5	1	8
Horned Grebe	5	3	14	20	42
Pied-billed Grebe	6	0	6	5	17
White Pelican	7	0	0	0	7
Double-crested Cormorant	9	0	2	4	15
Great Blue Heron	11	6	5	4	26
Little Blue Heron	0	0	0	1	1
Cattle Egret	1	0	0	0	1
Common Egret	3	0	1	5	9
Louisiana Heron	7	0	11	25	43
Black-crowned Night Heron	0	0	0	10	10
White-fronted Goose	1	0	0	0	1
Snow Goose	0	0	12	2	14
Blue Goose	0	0	60	6	66
Mallard	0	0	7	5	12
Black Duck	0	0	18	5	23
Mottled Duck	0	0	5	3	8
Gadwall	0	0	0	1	1
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	6	6

Christmas Count (Continued)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
American Widgeon	1	0	0	0	1
Lesser Scaup	41	100	55	30	226
Common Goldeneye	21	0	0	2	23
Bufflehead	0	2	5	3	10
Oldsquaw	1	0	0	0	1
Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	25	25
Common Merganser	5	0	0	0	5
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	4	2	6
Turkey Vulture	8	3	8	50	69
Black Vulture	17	1	75	100	193
Red-tailed Hawk	0	0	2	3	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	6	2	0	9
Marsh Hawk	7	1	6	2	16
Sparrow Hawk	0	1	9	2	12
King Rail	2	0	1	0	3
Clapper Rail	0	0	1	30	31
Virginia Rail	0	0	0	1	1
Sora	1	0	1	1	3
Common Gallinule	0	0	4	0	4
Semipalmated Plover	2	0	0	2	4
Piping Plover	1	5	7	0	13
Killdeer	13	20	60	5	98
Black-bellied Plover	1	1	0	1	3
Ruddy Turnstone	0	4	2	2	8
Common Snipe	3	1	20	8	32
Spotted Sandpiper	0	0	1	0	1
Willet	0	0	0	2	2
Greater Yellowlegs	0	0	2	7	9
Lesser Yellowlegs	0	0	0	1	1
Dunlin	27	1	300	10	338
Semipalmated Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	1
Western Sandpiper	0	0	1	0	1
Sanderling	0	20	8	10	38
Herring Gull	19	1	5	1	26
Ring-billed Gull	88	8	5	3	104
Laughing Gull	11	0	0	3	14
Bonaparte's Gull	4	24	10	1	39
Gull-billed Tern	4	0	0	0	4
Forster's Tern	19	1	3	25	48
Common Tern	2	0	1	0	3
Royal Tern	3	0	0	0	3
Caspian Tern	4	0	5	2	11
Black Skimmer	0	2	0	0	2
Mourning Dove	0	0	1	3	4
Belted Kingfisher	9	6	3	4	22
Yellow-shafted Flicker	2	18	6	2	38
Pileated Woodpecker	0	1	1	0	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	5	2	1	10
Red-headed Woodpecker	0	0	2	2	4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	3	1	1	5
Hairy Woodpecker	0	2	1	0	3
Downy Woodpecker	1	2	2	2	7

Christmas Count (Continued)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Eastern Phoebe	2	1	1	4	8
Tree Swallow	2	2	2	3	9
Rough-winged Swallow	0	0	1	0	1
Blue Jay	3	6	3	10	22
Common Crow	1	5	0	10	16
Fish Crow	5	2	32	10	49
Carolina Chickadee	2	10	4	2	18
Tufted Titmouse	0	6	2	2	10
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	2	0	0	2
Brown-headed Nuthatch	0	6	0	0	6
Brown Creeper	2	0	0	0	2
House Wren	0	0	1	0	1
Winter Wren	0	1	1	0	2
Carolina Wren	1	3	1	1	6
Long-billed Marsh Wren	0	0	0	1	1
Short-billed Marsh Wren	2	0	1	3	6
Mockingbird	2	24	3	3	32
Brown Thrasher	1	5	3	4	13
Robin	0	15	6	2	23
Hermit Thrush	0	1	0	0	1
Eastern Bluebird	0	5	7	4	16
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	1	1	2	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	24	3	4	32
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6	20	12	8	46
Water Pipit	0	0	16	1	17
Cedar Waxwing	0	50	0	10	60
Loggerhead Shrike	3	6	5	2	16
Starling	0	2	3	3	8
Orange-crowned Warbler	0	7	3	9	19
Myrtle Warbler	55	100	30	1000	1185
Yellow-throated Warbler	0	0	1	0	1
Pine Warbler	3	2	1	2	8
Palm Warbler	0	0	3	0	3
Yellowthroat	2	1	1	2	6
House Sparrow	0	6	3	0	9
Eastern Meadowlark	0	115	50	4	169
Red-winged Blackbird	25	20	400	500	945
Boat-tailed Grackle	126	0	16	12	154
Common Grackle	19	3	1	0	23
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	4	0	0	4
Cardinal	3	10	2	6	21
American Goldfinch	26	20	30	20	96
Rufous-sided Towhee	0	3	10	1	14
Savannah Sparrow	0	20	5	3	28
Seaside Sparrow	0	0	1	1	2
Slate-colored Junco	0	0	10	0	10
Field Sparrow	0	0	1	0	1
White-throated Sparrow	10	24	6	3	43
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	0	1	0	1
Swamp Sparrow	0	8	1	20	29

TOTAL NUMBER OF SPECIES 123

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS 5,077

NOTE: The White-fronted Goose was found at Lakeshore by party "I" and

later collected by party "IV." The specimen, now in the wildlife Museum at Jackson, Mississippi, represents the first specimen of the species for Mississippi and the second record.

The participants worked hard and produced a good list. With the experience with the area gained this year and an additional party or two, we should go over 130 species next year. I hope everyone will make it again next year.

Lovett E. Williams

Bird and Bird Banding Notes - Gulfport Area

A Knot Calidris canutus was seen on the Gulfport beach on September 21, 1961. The same bird presumably was netted and banded the following day. Two Knots, neither of which were banded, were seen at the city dump at Gulfport on 9-28-61. These are uncommon birds.

A well-defined cold wave came through Gulfport the night of 2 - 3 October, but was rather disappointing in the migrants it brought down, except for swallows which were very numerous -- Barn swallows Hirundo rustica, Tree Swallows Iridoprocne bicolor and Rough-winged swallows Stelgidopteryx ruficollis were all abundant in order of decreasing numbers. These swallows were seen daily heading west to east for the following 3 weeks or so.

White-throated sparrows Zonotrichia albicollis were first seen here on 10-15-61.

Nashville warblers Vermivora ruficapilla are rare in this region, since they migrate north and west of us in the fall, but an adult female was netted at Belle Fontaine Beach on 10-15-61. An Osprey Pandion haliaetus was present over the beach at Belle Fontaine on this date and one was noted over the Gulfport beach the following day.

The first Bonaparte's gull Larus philadelphia of this fall for this area appeared on 11-31-61. Three Cattle egrets Bubulcus ibis were seen in a pony pasture near the Gulfport airport this same day. The first Cattle egrets I encountered in Mississippi were in this same pasture on 9-25-59.

A single female Surf scoter Melanitta perspicillata was studied about half an hour with 7 x 35 binoculars and 20X Balscope close offshore at Belle Fontaine Beach on 11-25-61. This bird was studied both in flight and on the water.

A swift discovered at dusk over the Pascagoula River flats on 11-29-61 is almost certainly a Vaux's swift Chaetura vauxi for the last Chimney swifts I saw in this region were a group of 6 on 10-18-61.

A red-breasted nuthatch Sitta canadensis spent a good portion of the morning of 12-6-61 in my yard in Gulfport and a female Slate-colored junco Junco hyemalis fed at the feeding stations here 12-28-61.

Lovett Williams collected a Franklin's gull Larus pipixcan near the Marinearium at Gulfport on 12-24-61.

Henry D. Haberyan, M. D., 13 Poplar Circle, Gulfport

BIRDS BANDED 1961

Henry D. Haberyan, M. D., Permit 8515
13 Poplar Circle, Gulfport, Mississippi

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number of This Species</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Number of This Species</u>
Herring gull	1	Savannah sparrow	8
Black tern	8	Seaside sparrow	3
Black skimmer	38	White-throated sparrow	29
Bufflehead	1	Chipping sparrow	18
Louisiana heron	2	Field sparrow	2
Green heron	1	Swamp sparrow	4
Yellow-crowned night heron	3	Rufous-sided towhee	42
Virginia rail	1	Cardinal	189
Common snipe	14	Blue grosbeak	1
Knot	1	Indigo bunting	3
Pectoral sandpiper	8	Painted bunting	1
Least sandpiper	23	Summer tanager	1
Dunlin	58	Barn swallow	5
Semipalmated sandpiper	4	Bank swallow	1
Western sandpiper	5	Rough-winged swallow	10
Sanderling	13	Loggerhead shrike	1
Solitary sandpiper	1	Red-eyed vireo	3
Spotted sandpiper	1	White-eyed vireo	5
Killdeer	7	Nashville warbler	1
Semipalmated plover	2	Tennessee warbler	4
Piping plover	13	Yellow warbler	8
Bobwhite quail	1	Myrtle warbler	33
Mourning dove	102	Magnolia warbler	1
Screech owl	2	Pine warbler	2
Belted kingfisher	1	Prairie warbler	3
Downy woodpecker	1	Northern waterthrush	3
Pileated woodpecker	1	Kentucky warbler	2
Red-headed woodpecker	6	Common yellowthroat	3
Red-bellied woodpecker	6	Yellow-breasted chat	8
Yellow-shafted flicker	3	Hooded warbler	1
Chuck-will's-widow	1	American redstart	1
Whip-poor-will	1	Mockingbird	25
Common nighthawk	1	Catbird	36
Chimney swift	6	Brown thrasher	43
Ruby-throated hummingbird	3	Carolina wren	8
Great crested flycatcher	1	House wren	2
Eastern phoebe	5	Brown-headed nuthatch	1
Yellow-bellied flycatcher	1	Tufted titmouse	3
Acadian flycatcher	2	Ruby-crowned kinglet	3
Traill's flycatcher	2	Blue-gray gnatcatcher	2
Least flycatcher	3	Wood thrush	2
Blue jay	96	Gray-cheeked thrush	2
Brown-headed cowbird	1	Olive-backed thrush	1
Red-winged blackbird	27	Eastern bluebird	4
Eastern meadowlark	1		
Orchard oriole	1		
Common grackle	1		

1,009 birds of 91 species (25 May - 31 December, 1961)
Second column of figures indicates total of birds banded
at Dauphin Island, Alabama. First column includes total
of both Alabama and Mississippi birds banded.

Annual Spring Meeting - Plans are being made for the Annual Spring Meeting of the MOS by Dr. Haberyan for the week-end of April 14. This is about the time of peak migration on the Coast. The meeting will feature a field trip conducted by John Walther on a Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife boat with a tour of Gulf Islands National Wildlife Refuge and a demonstration of mist-netting and banding at Belle Fontaine Beach. It is planned to have a business-dinner meeting at night.

The Editor's Notes:

Nov. 5 - 3 snow geese in field beside Highway 49 W, South of Wolf Lake, Yazoo County

Dec. 19 - 3 red-breasted nuthatches - Natchez Trace, Little Mountain near French Camp, Choctaw County

26 - 1 Red-breasted nuthatch, 1 sol. vireo, 2 pine warblers, 1 orange-crowned warbler, south of Holly Bluff, Yazoo County

30 - Est. 5000 mallards, 3000 wood ducks feeding and roosting in flooded woods, south of Holly Bluff between Lower Aux. Channel and Big Sunflower River. Also, a few G-W teal, 4 pintails, 20 hooded mergansers seen in this area. Ducks were feeding on flooded willow oak ridges.

30 - Several flocks of horned larks numbering 50 to 100 were seen in Yazoo County south of Holly Bluff. Also, water pipits in two flocks of 30 or more.

W. H. Turcotte

Two solitary vireos were observed January 4, 1962, at close range by Mrs. W. G. Wills, Jr. and Christine Berry.

A horned grebe was seen on Cook's Lake west of Jackson on December 30, 1961, by the same observers.