

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955

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May 16, 1962

MOS NEWSLETTER - Vol. 7, No. 3

Compiled by: W. H. TURCOTTE

Annual Meeting:

The annual MOS Meeting was held April 14, 1962, on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Members and guests registered Friday evening, April 13, at the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce Building. Dr. and Mrs. Henry D. Haberyan served refreshments to arriving members.

John Walther conducted a party of twenty or more members and their guests on a boat trip to Horn Island National Refuge.

Dr. and Mrs. Haberyan and Mrs. Bedford Floyd demonstrated the use of mist-nets in bird banding at Belle Fontaine Beach.

The annual business meeting was held at the Paradise Point Restaurant the night of April 14.

Gray Kingbird

On 28 April 1962, we collected a gray kingbird from a telephone line at Belle Fontaine Beach (Jackson County), Mississippi. As far as we know, this is the first report of the species for the state. The Gray Kingbird has been known to nest near Fort Morgan, Alabama, for the past several years and in 1961 we observed them breeding even nearer Mississippi on Dauphin Island. Finding one this spring less than 30 miles west of Dauphin Island was not surprising for it is reasonably in keeping with the species' recent history of westward range extension. However, the unusually high southerly winds and heavy rains along the Gulf Coast on 28 April may have been more directly responsible for this individual's appearance at Belle Fontaine Beach.

Also, on Belle Fontaine Beach that day we saw one of the oddities of nature -- two birds in one, a Brewster's Warbler. It is one of the results of the common hybridization between the Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers and/or various back-crosses.

Sterling G. Clawson and Lovett E. Williams

Memphis Spring Arrival and Other Notes - Observed at Memphis, Tennessee,

By Oliver F. Irwin, 1789 Glenview

3-22, Chipping Sparrow; 3-24, Louisiana Water Thrush; 3-27, Chimney Swift;
3-31, Black-throated-green Warbler, Vesper Sparrow; 4-2, Black-and-white Warbler;
4-7, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; 4-9, Yellow-throated, White-eyed Vireo, Whip-poor-will,
Chuck-Will's Widow (Flushed); 4-11, Wood Thrush, Parula Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo
(singing), N. Water Thrush; 4-12, Scarlet, Summer Tanager, Swainson's Thrush, Blue-
winged Warbler, Lark Sparrow; 4-14, Broadwinged Hawk, E. Kingbird, R.-T. Humming-
bird (Pair); 4-17, Baltimore Oriole; 4-18, Indigo Bunting, Yellow Warbler (By Dave
Brown); 4-18, Pine Siskin (1), Pine Siskin (5), Late Date 5-1; 4-20, Crested Fly-
catcher; 4-21, Indigo Bunting, First Flocks, Last Slate-colored Junco; 4-24, Rose-
breasted Grosbeaks, Tennessee, Worm-eating Warbler; 4-24, Redstart, Nighthawk,
Blue-winged Warbler (2); 4-27, Y. B. Chat, Wood Peewee, Com. Yellowthroat;
4-28, Bay-breasted Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler (5); 4-29, Black-billed Cuckoo,
House Wren, Blackpoll Warbler; 4-30, Canada Warbler, Prothonotary, 5 Pine Siskins;
4-30, Injured Hermit Thrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

A Solitary Sandpiper was found on a golf course, killed during the severe storms on the night of 4-28, 29-62. This was possibly a disaster night throughout the East.

Gulf Coast Notes

On 16 February 1962, a mixed flock of about 100 Horned grebes, Colymbus auritus, and about 30 Bonaparte's gulls, Larus philadelphia, were noted to be feeding together in a manner which I have found to be quite common, but which I have not seen reported. The birds made up a compact flock with the grebes actively diving and obviously feeding while gradually moving in this instance east. The gulls were fairly well mixed with the grebes and were dabbling while on the surface of the water. As the grebes moved along the gulls tended to be left at the rear of the flock, but those at the rear would constantly fly to the head of the flock so that there was a constant milling about of birds. I could not determine upon what the birds were feeding. Presumably, the grebes were following a school of fish. The gulls would not infrequently submerge their whole heads in feeding, but I could never identify a fish in their beaks. The association of these two species of birds in such activity is common, although the size of the flocks is not generally as large as the one noted on this date.

Shorebirds have been appearing in good numbers. On 14 March, for instance, about 20 Common snipe, Capella gallinago, 4 Lesser yellowlegs, Totanus flavipes, 8 Killdeer, Charadrius vociferus, 9 Golden plover, Pluvialis dominica, 4 Solitary sandpipers, Trianga solitaria, 3 Pectoral sandpipers, Erolia melanotos, 1 Western sandpiper, Ereunetes mauri, and 1 Dunlin, Erolia alpina, were noted at the city dump area in Gulfport.

On 17 March 3 White Pelicans, Pelecanus erythrorhynchos, were noted soaring east to west over Mississippi Sound off Belle Fontaine Beach.

The first Chimney swifts, Chaetura pelagica, were first noted this spring on 25 March. One single and one flight of three were seen on this date.

A cold front with drizzle and scattered thundershowers passed through this area 31 March. Birds were seen to be precipitated from the sky by this weather at Belle Fontaine Beach. Among those seen were:

White-eyed vireos* (Vireo griseus)
 Yellow-throated vireos* (Vireo flavifrons)
 Red-eyed vireo* (Vireo olivaceus)
 Black and white warbler* (Mniotilta varia)
 Prothonotary warbler* (Protonotaria citrea)
 Swainson's warbler* (Limothlypis swainsonii)
 Worm-eating warbler* (Helminthos vermivorus)
 Parula warbler (Parula americana)
 Myrtle warbler (Dendroica coronata)
 Ovenbird* (Seiurus aurocapillus)
 Louisiana waterthrush* (Seiurus motacilla)
 Kentucky warbler* (Oporornis formosus)
 Common yellowthroat* (Geothlypis trichas)
 Hooded warbler* (Wilsonia citrina)
 Yellowthroated warbler (Dendroica dominica)
 Summer tanager (Piranga rubra)
 Painted bunting* (Passerina ciris)
 Wood thrush* (Hylocichla mustelina)
 Ruby-throated hummingbird* (Archilochus colubris)
 Eastern kingbird (Tyrannus tyrannus)
 Yellow-billed cuckoo (Coccyzus americanus)
 Empidonax species (Probably Yellow-bellied flycatcher)

The asterisks indicate species one or more of which were banded.

On 4 April two adult King rails, Rallus elegans, with downy young were found near the Fish Hatchery at Lyman. I have no data on nesting dates of this species, but this seems to be an early date. The young were examined in hand and showed no "pinfeathers" so I take it they are less than a week old.

Dr. Henry D. Haberyan
 April 4, 1962

Eared Grebe and Black-legged Kittiwake at Pascagoula, Mississippi

On the afternoon of 11 March 1961, S. G. Clawson and I were joined by Dr. Henry D. Haberyan on a short small-boat trip in Mississippi Sound off Pascagoula. We were surprised to find and collect an Eared Grebe near shore at the east mouth of the Pascagoula River. The specimen was placed in the Mississippi Game and Fish Commission museum at Jackson. About two hours later and three miles southeast of the mouth of the river we had a close look at an immature Black-legged Kittiwake as it flew overhead toward the east. Unfortunately, we were unable to collect the specimen. Juveniles of this species are quite distinctively marked and the three of us agreed that the bird in question could be none other. Kittiwakes are very rare in the Gulf of Mexico and it seems more than a coincidence that our sighting came within six months and a very few miles of the first sighting of the species in Mississippi waters (seen near Ocean Springs on 28 October, Audubon Field Notes 16:46). The two sightings may refer to the same individual.

With the collection of the Eared Grebe at Pascagoula, that species claims a place on the list of birds of Mississippi as an accidental visitant. Until a specimen is collected, it cannot be said with certainty that the Black-legged Kittiwake has occurred in Mississippi. Perhaps it will be found here again.

Lovett E. Williams

Migrating Whippoorwills

Five or six singing whippoorwills were heard singing before daybreak on April 7, 1962, on Sunflower Management Area, Sharkey County. Three whippoorwills were heard singing before daybreak at Pelahatchie Creek, north of Brandon, Rankin County, on April 8. -- W. H. Turcotte

Early Wood Duck Broods

Two broods of 7 each, wood ducks, were seen along the Big Sunflower River in Sharkey County, April 7, 1962. One brood appeared to be just out of nest, the other several days older. W. H. Turcotte

400 White Pelicans were seen migrating at New Augusta, Perry County, Mississippi, on April 17, 1962. They were moving from Northeasterly to Southwesterly direction. Barry O. Freeman, Oxford, Mississippi

Yellow-throated Vireo Nesting

A yellow-throated vireo was observed actively completing nest construction thirty feet up on a horizontal limb of a sweetgum tree beside a small stream in hardwood timbered hills near Davis Lake, east of Houlka, Mississippi, Chickasaw County. This observation was made on April 19, 1962. W. H. Turcotte

White-breasted Nuthatch Nesting

Mrs. William G. Wills, Jr., and Miss Christine Berry observed a pair of white-breasted nuthatches feeding young in a natural cavity about 30 feet up in the main trunk of a living red oak tree at Mayes Lake, Jackson, Mississippi, during the first week of April, 1962. Contributed by Miss Christine Berry and Mrs. William G. Wills, Jr.

Treasurer's Report on Dues Payable

All memberships in the MOS are dated January 1 or July 1. Many persons do not know when their membership fees are due. As a result, some members' dues are paid through 1964 or 1965. Others become delinquent without realizing it. Hereafter, members will be notified through the Newsletter when membership fees are due.

If your name is not on one of the following lists, and you are receiving the Newsletter regularly, you have paid in advance.

Treasurers are not infallible. Should your records not agree with mine, please let me know.

Annual dues for January 1, 1962 - December 31, 1962, are now due for the following members: Sterling Clawson, Sam Danna, Jr., Mrs. Bedford Floyd, John M. Frazier,

Newton F. Hanson, Mrs. W. H. Harrison, Miss Mary Hobson, Mrs. Electa D. Levi, Mrs. Fred Moreton, S. E. Moreton, Jr., Miss Ava R. Tabor, Miss Ethel May Taylor, Nelson W. Taylor, and J. W. Tucker, Jr.

Annual dues for July 1, 1962 - June 30, 1963, will be due July 1, 1962, for the following members: Mrs. E. L. Bailey, Mrs. Edna W. Campbell, Dr. Carl DeForest, Mrs. Carl DeForest, Mrs. M. L. Dinwiddie, B. E. Gandy, Albert Ganier, John H. Phares, Mrs. George R. Smith, George R. Smith, A. E. Torres, W. H. Turcotte, Lovett E. Williams and Mrs. W. G. Wills, Jr.

In order that all memberships may eventually be dated January 1, it is suggested that members on the latter list pay either one dollar for six months' dues or three dollars for eighteen months' dues.

New members and members who pay in cash will be sent a receipt. If you pay by check, your cancelled check will be your receipt.

B. E. Gandy, Treasurer

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Evening Grosbeaks in Jackson Until May 2, 1962

Mr. E. H. Magruder, 1739 Howard Street, Jackson, Mississippi, reported that until the latter part of April Evening Grosbeaks continued to come to his feeding tray in approximately the same numbers, 9 - 10, as previously reported. During the last week of April a gradual decline in numbers was noted and the birds, 3 females and 1 male, were last seen on May 2, 1962.

Mr. Magruder stated that recently Evening Grosbeaks, apparently the same group, had been coming to a feeder at the home of Mrs. J. M. Stevens, Jr., 1721 Howard Street. Mrs. Stevens also saw them for the last time on May 2, 1962.

A Rosebreasted Grosbeak came to Mr. Magruder's feeder Sunday, April 29, 1962. It appeared timid and did not eat nor linger long.

It might be of interest to note that Mr. Magruder's feeder is attached to his breakfast room window and birds on the feeder are within an arm's length of the observer.

B. E. Gandy