

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955

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April 10, 1963

MOS NEWSLETTER - Vol. 8, No. 2

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Annual MOS Spring Meeting

MOS President, Dr. Henry D. Haberyan has announced plans for the annual meeting to be held April 20 - 21 on the Gulf Coast. Base headquarters for the meeting will be Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Floyd's cabin on Belle Fontaine Beach east of Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Field tours of the Sandhill Crane territory on the St. Regis Paper Company lease and of the Pascagoula River flats between Gautier, Mississippi, and Pascagoula, Mississippi, will be conducted from the Belle Fontaine Beach headquarters. Dr. Haberyan and Mrs. Floyd will again demonstrate their mist netting and banding operations at Belle Fontaine Beach and possibly also with shore and water birds on the Pascagoula River flats.

Members arriving on the Coast Friday evening are invited to call at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Haberyan, 13 Poplar Circle, Gulfport, for coffee. Guests may telephone Dr. Haberyan's home for directions.

Either Dr. Haberyan or Mrs. Floyd will stay overnight at Belle Fontaine Beach to set nets in hopes of taking screech owls or Chuck-Will's-Widows. Members will register at the base headquarters and may visit as early as desired for birding on the beachfront.

The Floyd's cabin is the second on the left past the end of the blacktop on Belle Fontaine Beach. Follow Highway 90 and the Belle Fontaine Beach directional arrows east from Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

The time and place of the business meeting Saturday evening will be announced. It will be held at one of the restaurants on the Coast and members and guests will order individually from the menu as was done last year.

Dr. Land's Film-Lecture Program

Dr. Hugh C. Land, Department of Biology, Northwestern State College, Natchitoches, Louisiana, presented his hour long sound-color-film-lecture program on birds of Eastern Guatemala on Saturday evening, March 23, 1963, at the Wildlife Museum in Jackson, Mississippi. Arrangements for the program, sponsored by the MOS, were made by Dr. Haberyan and B. E. Gandy. About 70 persons, members and guests, attended. Mrs. W. G. Wills entertained members and some of their guests at a coffee party at her home after the meeting.

Dr. Land's presentation was delightful and well-received.

Notes From Stafford Springs

This locality on Highway 11, 31 miles south of Meridian, contains a high land area that is forested chiefly in pine. A favorite resort in early days, it still maintains cottages, an excellent food service, 240 acres of trail-threaded woodland and I have found it to be a nice place to stop over for a bit of birding. Three days spent there, February 21 - 23, 1963, produced a good list of birds, including an unexpected Catbird. Pine Warblers and Chipping Sparrows were observed feeding on the ground under the big pines near our cottage. A flock of Purple Finches was observed in a swampy area. A Myrtle Warbler was seen feeding in an unusual manner along the water's edge of the small lake. It would follow the water line, sometimes wading, and picking up what I supposed to be emerging May flies. At times it would fly out several feet from the shore and pluck an insect from the water's surface. The temperature that morning was below freezing. At dusk, a flock of Waxwings gathered in sweetgum trees on the grounds and then flew down into a magnolia to spend the night. The tree was only 20 feet tall but thickly leaved and the birds were difficult to see among the foliage. At a 20-acre lake, 3 miles north of the Springs, a flock of ducks were seen but I was unable to identify them at the distance because of poor light. I could see, however, an extensive growth of cattails around the upper end that would appear to be good nesting grounds for King Rails and Least Bitterns. The virgin stand of big pines about the resort and another about 4 miles northeast were searched carefully for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers or their nesting trees, but none were found. Some of these big pines are 33 inches in diameter. A nest tree of this species was found in the recreation area in the Homochitto National Forest west of Meadville, Mississippi. No birds were present.

Albert F. Ganier, 2112 Woodlawn Drive, Nashville 12, Tennessee
March 5, 1963

Mississippi Kite Nests

If you have observed this species in your locality during the summer months and suspected it as having nested, now is the time to look for its nest before the new leaves come out. More often than not, they will repair the old nest and use it again during the coming season. Since they lay the last week in May, the leaves at that time may completely obscure the nest especially if they use their most favored tree - the sweetgum. The nests are distinct from those of crows and hawks in that they are placed near the top of tall trees - usually against the main stem. The nests are relatively small, are built of twigs and may be seen at a distance. Of many nests, found around sixty years ago about Vicksburg, Mississippi, all but one held just a single egg. Photos taken by me at that time of nests and live bird were used to illustrate the account of this species in Bent's Life Histories.

Albert F. Ganier, Nashville 12, Tennessee, March 5, 1963.

Partial Albino Robin

On Wednesday, February 13, 1963, Mr. D. B. Watson of this city was going to Jackson, and about 7 or 8 miles below Kosciusko on the Trace he observed an albino robin. When he returned about noon the next day the bird was at the same place.

On Sunday afternoon he took me down there with him and the bird was still there. It was partially white in that most of the head was white, and the neck feathers were all white, and about half of the back and half of each wing in splotches. The broad irregular band of white bisected the breast. The rest of the bird was of regular robin colors.

To me the most interesting thing about it was this was observed at the same place on these different dates.

Clarence E. Morgan, Jr., Kosciusko, Mississippi

Purple Martin Arrivals

On the afternoon of February 22, 1963, two martins arrived at my house in Jackson. They went to roost in the box but were not seen again as of February 25. Next arrivals came in on March 4 and 5. The arrival date is three days later than in 1962.

Mrs. Ethel Floyd reported purple martins arriving at her house in Gulfport also on February 22.

W. H. Turcotte

Some Jackson Bird Observations

On January 24 when the temperature was between 7° and 13° Mrs. William G. Wills and Miss Christine Berry observed 68 hermit thrushes along the Old Canton Road and up the Natchez Trace 18 miles in a 1½ hour count from car.

On January 25 when the temperature was 18°, 200 mallards and pintails were seen at Rose's Bluff on the Trace around the backwater from the New Pearl River Reservoir dam.

On January 28 the following species of waterfowl were observed and identified by telescope on La Rue's Lake at the north edge of Jackson:

Hooded merganser	Lesser Scaup
Bufflehead	Baldpate
Ruddy	Redhead
Mallard	Black duck
Ringneck	Coots
Greenwinged Teal	Pied bill Grebe

On February 16 on the same lake shoveller, canvasback, ruddy, ringneck and mallard ducks were seen. Also, pied billed, horned grebes and coots. Red head ducks were also seen on the Pearl River Reservoir on the same day.

Mrs. William G. Wills and Miss Christine Berry

Spring Migrant Plovers

Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey and Mrs. Cleo Yancey observed 53 golden plovers near Glen Allan, Mississippi, off Highway 1 and 85 at intersection of Highway 1 and Highway 14 near Rolling Fork on March 23.

On March 26, W. H. Turcotte saw approximately 200 golden plovers in a pasture on Highway 16 about 2 miles west of its junction with Highway 49 West, south of Louise, Mississippi. On March 29, 16 upland and 22 golden plovers, and on March 31, 25 golden and 16 upland plovers were in the same pasture.

Mrs. W. G. Wills and Miss Christine Berry observed both upland and golden plovers in the same area on March 29.

W. H. Turcotte

Chimney Swift Arrival

Mr. Ben B. Coffey observed and reported an early Chimney Swift arrival in Jackson, Mississippi. He saw one at dusk March 23 in west Jackson.

W. H. Turcotte

Whippoorwills

Five or more Whippoorwills were heard singing at two locations in Sharkey County about 4 miles west of Holly Bluff, on March 30 and 31, 1963.

W. H. Turcotte
