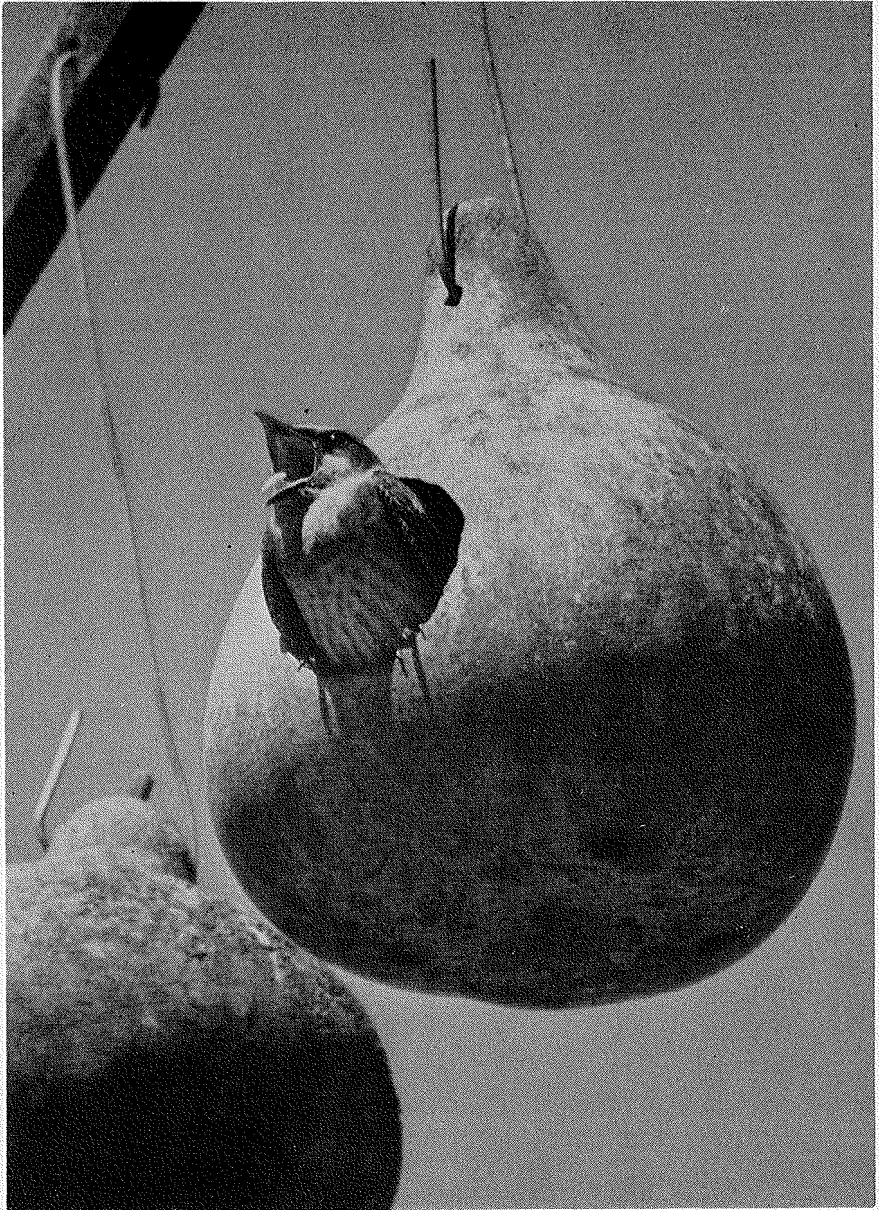


THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

A Periodical Published by the Mississippi Ornithological Society to Record and Further the Study of Mississippi Birdlife.

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Front Cover: Female Purple Martin announcing occupancy of her nest site. April 1976, Meridian, MS. Photo by J.A. Jackson.

(There have been 6 previous issues of the Mississippi Kite, Vol. 1(1), Vol. 2(1, 2), Vol. 3(1), and two issues published as numbers 5 and 6. With this issue we will resume numbering issues by volume. Each volume will include all issues published within a calendar year. This means that Numbers 5 and 6 are effectively Vol. 4(1) and Vol. 5(1). Our goal is to begin publication of the Mississippi Kite on a regular basis (eventually quarterly). Please support the Mississippi Kite by your contribution of manuscripts as well as by your membership in the M.O.S. and enlisting new members for the society.)

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Observations of the Vermilion Flycatcher:Washington County, Mississippi

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The Vermilion Flycatcher (Pyrocephalus rubinus) was first observed in Washington County in recent years by Lula Coffey on 2 January 1972 at Lake Jackson during the first Christmas Count held in Washington County. The bird she saw was an adult male. Lake Jackson is an old oxbow lake, a former bed of the Mississippi River. It is lined primarily with Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichum) with various hardwoods and willows in the immediate vicinity. The lake is shallow, having been victim of silting over the centuries. It is approximately 4 miles long and averages only about 400 feet wide. The exact location of the first sighting was just off the only dike crossing the lake, which was formerly used as a logging road. The bird was feeding from a cypress tree. Subsequent sightings and accompanying notes follow:

- 8 Jan 1972: 2 males and 3 females (or immatures): seen by Polly and Wiley Mock and Ann and Randall Imbler and ourselves. Three more trips were made back to the lake with no success; the last trip was 5 February. Our inexperience with the habits of this bird at that time could indicate that we simply missed them.
- 24 Oct 1972: one bird at the dike area. We at first called this a female, but it could easily have been an immature. Several trips were made to the site during the winter with the last sighting on 31 December 1972. Two more trips were made during January and February with no success.
- 23 Nov 1973: one male back in the dike area. This bird had a slight whitish wash on the throat which indicates a second year bird. We made 7 trips to Lake Jackson between 23 November and 10 February, sighting the bird 5 times, the last being 10 February 1974. No trips were made after that date. On 6 January I entered in my notes: "...looked for more (birds) but no luck. First time we saw him, he looked in full plumage; second time he looked dull...could be 2 birds?".
- 21 Oct 1974: my notes read: "male is back (brilliant plumage) - also pretty sure another one was further down the lake, but it was too far to be positive". We had made a trip to Lake Jackson on 17 October with no luck. On 23 October my notes read: "2 males for sure, 1 immature almost certain, 1 female maybe". Eight trips were made through 22 February 1975 with success on every trip through 8 February. We saw 2

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males on 2 trips, a male and a female on 1 trip, and single birds on all others. Three trips were made after 8 February with no birds.

7 Nov 1975: male in brilliant plumage is back at dike area. Trips on 19 October and 30 October revealed no birds. On 29 November another male was sighted on the Lake 2 miles south of the dike. On 24 January, Dr. Jerome Jackson of Mississippi State University brought 5 students to the area. Both birds were found and photographed. Efforts at mist net capture failed. Six trips in all were made after 7 November, the last being 22 February. Both birds were recorded on each trip through 15 February with none on 22 February 1976.

These beautiful birds have provided pleasure for all of us over the past 4 years. During this time we have noted several characteristics of the birds as well as ecological conditions related to their presence. The birds have never been seen far from water, always feeding from trees over the water or low growing shrubs at the periphery of the lake. When the wind is high they feed from low perches, and, conversely, when there is no wind they almost always preferred the very tops of the tallest cypress trees. Also, it seems that they would feed for a period of approximately 30 minutes, then fly off toward the land and denser foliage for a short while, then return. The bird we recently observed 2 miles south of the dike fed along the edge of the lake. Only on rare occasions did we observe this bird on the ground. All birds fed almost exclusively on the wing.

Probably the most convenient fact that we noticed was that the birds always feed in one general area throughout the winter. We rarely saw the birds south of the dike nor more than 500 yards north of the dike. Cypress trees are prevalent all down the lake, and it seems to us that one spot would be as good as another. Our birds seem to disagree. The discovery of the bird 2 miles south this year dictates that a new territory may be established, and will deserve our attention in future years. It appears that feeding territories are definitely maintained, having never seen 2 males throughout the winter close together. However, the male doesn't seem to mind the presence of a female or immature.

It was interesting to note that we never saw the flycatchers until our multitude of winter Cardinals arrived. This may be coincidental, but we can't help but believe that there is a possibility they are attracted somehow by the presence of Cardinals.

During the past 4 years, we have had 2 significant snows: 4 inches on 10 January 1973 and 1 inch on 14 January 1975. An ice storm occurred on 7 January 1974. The temperatures during the years ranged from lows of 11° in 1976 to 21° in 1973 and 1974. Although we have had no extended periods of severely cold weather, we can conclude that abrupt changes to short periods of severe cold and/or precipitation fail to drive them out.

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Many unanswered questions have developed. For instance, how did the birds find this spot in the first place? How long have they been coming here? Although there was a Vermilion Flycatcher reported on a Christmas Count in the 1960's at the Yazoo Wildlife Refuge by the manager, Mr. Cunningham, there have been no subsequent reports. Such a vivid and cooperative bird should have been noticed even by amateurs in the past years. Do we see the same birds year after year, or offspring of the birds? The 2 birds we observed this year were brilliant male adults which probably means they are at least 2 years old. With no accompanying immatures this year, will we have any more birds next year if these die? Where do they breed? Ours must pass up numerous ideal wintering sites each year on their way to Lake Jackson, unless they breed closer to us than the southwestern U.S. where they normally breed.

There are many more questions, the answers to which can be obtained only through more thorough study. The task of answering these questions could prove challenging, intriguing, and enjoyable.

Scarlet Tanager Breeding in Lee County

Robert Howell

301 B. Liberty Road
Natchez, Mississippi

In a six-acre stand of mixed hardwoods owned by J. E. Wesson, one mile west of Guntown, Lee County, Mississippi, a pair of Scarlet Tanagers (Piranga olivacea) raised at least three young.

A male and female tanager were first seen by me on 14 April 1974. A male bird was seen again on 5 May. I do not know whether these were migrating birds or the breeding pair since these two sightings were made during brief visits to the area.

The possibility of the birds remaining in the area was brought to the attention of Mr. and Mrs. Wesson. On 8 June between 06:30 and 07:00, Mrs. Wesson was awakened by a thump on the bedroom window screen. A Scarlet Tanager fledgling was clinging to the screen. An adult male hovered nearby and called until the young bird left the screen. A few minutes later a second fledgling flew into the screen. Again the male bird came and coaxed the young bird away. This happened one more time.

At least the last two fledglings flew to the screen from the same direction and left in a different direction. Mrs. Wesson was certain that these were three different individuals.

After hearing the above account myself, I hoped for an easy-to-find nest nearby. Unfortunately, it was not until 14 July that I was able to get to the area and search for the nest. I was unable to find it.

The previously known breeding range of the Scarlet Tanager extends south to west-central Tennessee and northwestern and central Alabama

(Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 203, 1965). This species is a well-known migrant in Mississippi and M.O.S. members should be on the lookout for breeding individuals in the northeastern part of the state.

Nesting of the Mottled Duck in Mississippi

Courtney T. Hackney and Olga P. Hackney

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The Mottled Duck (Anas fulvigula maculosa) is a resident species along the Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas coasts and nests only in remote marshes within this area. Twelve nesting records have been reported from 18 April to 20 August in Texas and four records, 23 April to 1 June from Louisiana. Little nesting data from Mississippi are available (Bent 1923, Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 126). Few data are available on the specific marsh habitat where nests have been found.

On 4 April 1975 we found the nest and 6 eggs of the Mottled Duck on a marsh island on the west side of Saint Louis Bay, Hancock Co., Mississippi. The marsh in this area was composed primarily of 2 m high Black Rush (Juncus roemerianus). The nest was located in an area of living Juncus that had been blown over by the wind and was approximately 100 m from the 2 nearest bodies of water. The nest was well concealed and could not be seen from above. An adult was flushed from the nest on that day and the following day. Bent (1923) reports that only the female incubates the eggs in the closely related Florida Duck (Anas fulvigula fulvigula). On 25 April 1975 we found only shell fragments in the nest.

The marshes of Saint Louis Bay are haphazardly managed by trappers for muskrat (Ondatra zibethica) and nutria (Myocastor coypus). The type of habitat mentioned above lasts only a year or 2. The blown-over Juncus dies and the marsh is burned by trappers during the winter. Two to 5 years are required before the marsh returns to the high Juncus state. The high Juncus stage of marsh succession is very dense, while other stages are more open and might render the nest vulnerable to the many raccoons (Procyon lotor) found on this marsh.

B. E. Gandy provided data from the Mississippi Museum of Natural Sciences on 2 previous Mississippi nest records of the Mottled Duck. S. G. Clawson and L. E. Williams collected 1 Mottled Duck egg found on the ground in a marsh near Claiborne in Hancock County. They also collected 6 eggs from a clutch of 7 near Lakeshore in Hancock County. The dates with these eggs are 22 April and 1 July 1962, respectively. Adults of the species are frequently reported in Hancock County (W. H. Turcotte 1960, MOS Newsletter 5(4):2; 1962 7(1):1). An adult female and four young were observed on August 16, 1971 and reported to W. H. Turcotte (1971, MOS Newsletter 16(3):5).

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Extension of the Known Breeding Range of the Eastern PhoebeIn Mississippi

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While the Eastern Phoebe is a common winter resident throughout Mississippi, it was previously known to breed only in Tishomingo County (Coffey, Migrant 14:70-72, 1943; Turcotte, M.O.S. Newsletter, 2(2):1, 1957). We report here an extension of the breeding range of this species to as far south as Oktibbeha County.

On 17 July 1974 while examining Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica) nests under a bridge just north of Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, Robert Howell and Charles Watson discovered a nest of an Eastern Phoebe (Sayornis phoebe). Jackson and Howell later collected the nest and it is presently in the ornithological collection at Mississippi State University. The nest was attached to a bolt and was approximately 6 inches from the floor of the bridge and 11 feet above a drainage ditch. The nest is old and partly deteriorated and there is no way to determine when the nest was constructed, but, judging from its condition, it was probably not built that year. No phoebes were seen in the area on either visit. The bridge was well-shaded by trees on both sides.

On 17 June 1975, Darden and Howell discovered a phoebe nest containing young under a bridge approximately 5 miles north of Starkville in Oktibbeha County. The bridge had a metal grate floor so that gravel, dirt, and water could readily fall through. To the south of the bridge was a second growth bottomland woods, to the north a few small trees and a partially flooded pasture. The bridge was near Trim Cane Creek and had standing floodwater from the creek under it. The nest was on an I-beam in a corner so that it was partially sheltered, though still visible from above. We visited the nest site again in July and found it empty, but intact. It appeared to have been successful. This nest was also collected and is in the collection at Mississippi State.

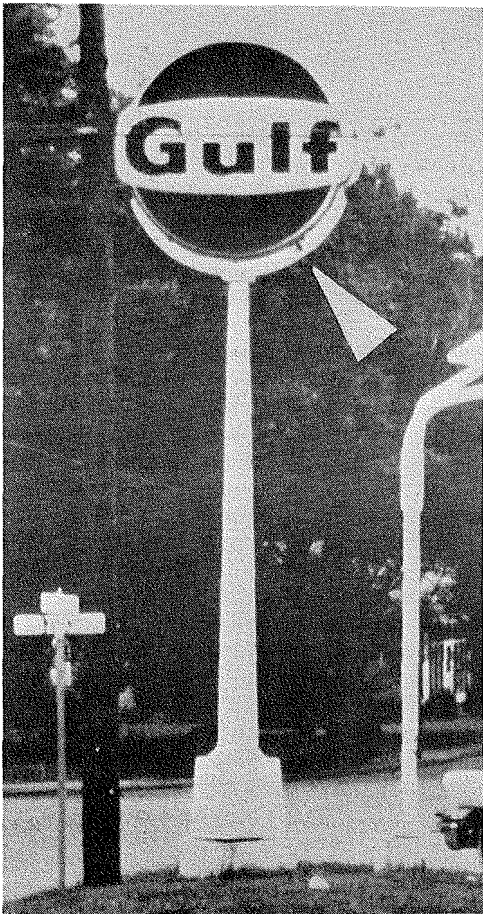
On 12 July 1975 Jackson and Werschkul checked under bridges and in cement box culverts along Mississippi highway 41 from Pontotoc to the junction of highway 41 with the Natchez Trace. From that point the Trace was followed and bridges and culverts were checked to about 12 miles north of Mathiston, Webster County. We found Barn Swallows but not phoebes nesting under bridges along highway 41. Along the Natchez Trace, however, we found 13 phoebe nests at 8 locations, all in Chickasaw County. Most of these nests were old or empty. Two had Barn Swallow nests built over the top of them and one phoebe nest was built over an old Barn Swallow nest. One phoebe nest .4 miles south of the junction of Mississippi 41 with the Natchez Trace had 4 eggs in it. All of the nests were in concrete box culverts or under concrete bridges. Barn Swallow nests were present at all but one location.

House Sparrow Nest in a Revolving Sign

Wayne C. Weber

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 Mississippi State, Mississippi

The nesting of birds in moving objects is decidedly rare, although it has been observed in several species, most notably the Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica), which has been reported to nest on trains and boats plying regular routes over short distances (Bent 1942). Thus the nesting of a pair of House Sparrows (Passer domesticus) in a revolving service station sign at Starkville, Mississippi seems worth recording.



The sparrow nest (Fig. 1) was located inside the hollow base of a sign at a Gulf service station on State Highway 12 at Montgomery Street, one of the busiest intersections in Starkville. The birds gained access to the sign's interior through a small opening in the base. The sign remained still when the service station was closed, but revolved when the station was open (07:00 to 19:00 Mondays through Saturdays and 08:00 to 17:00 Sundays); thus it was in constant motion during most of the daylight hours. It made 6.4 complete revolutions per minute; hence the nest entrance, about 0.5 m from the sign's axis, moved at a rate of about 0.34 m/sec. When entering the moving nest, the adults usually clung to the entrance hole in a vertical position for a few seconds before entering. However, their judgment sometimes erred; Jerome A. Jackson twice saw an adult fail in an attempt to land on the nest entrance.

Fig. 1. Nest site (arrow) of House Sparrows in a revolving sign.

I discovered the nest on 16 April 1976, when both adults were present and the female was carrying food to the loudly-calling young. The young were last heard on 22 April, when Jerome A. Jackson visited the nest. So far as I know, they survived at least up to the point of

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fledging, with no ill effects except perhaps for a slight case of dizziness. On 28 April, the female was again seen entering the nest, perhaps in preparation for raising a second brood.

House Sparrows are notorious for building nests in a wide variety of places. In addition to the usual nest-sites (ledges and crevices in buildings, nest boxes, vines, tree cavities, and exposed branches of trees), they have been recorded nesting in hawk nests, Bank Swallow (Riparia riparia) burrows, drawn-up awnings, old American Robin (Turdus migratorius) and Barn Swallow nests, bales of hay, and even an abandoned hornet nest (Bent 1958, Werler and Franks 1975). However, I know of only one previous report of House Sparrows nesting in a moving object: Tatschl (1968) reported several House Sparrow nests on working oil pumps in Kansas. Nevertheless, I feel certain that House Sparrows nest more often in moving objects than these two published reports would suggest. The species' adaptability in terms of nest-sites must surely be one of the major factors permitting its overwhelming success in urban areas. What else but a House Sparrow would nest in a revolving sign?

Thanks are due Jerome A. Jackson for making some of the observations, for photographing the nest-site, and for commenting on the manuscript.

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Common Flicker Nesting in the Ground

E. J. Ganier, Jr. and Jerome A. Jackson

Hollandale, Ms. and Department of Zoology, Mississippi State, Ms.

During April of 1973 E. J. Ganier, Jr. frequently flushed a Common Flicker (Colaptes auratus) from near two utility poles in the middle of a cotton field about three miles south of Hollandale, Washington County, Mississippi. When he investigated the site he found two holes in the ground about six feet apart. Each was about seven inches in diameter and six to eight inches deep. One had been rained on and was partly washed in; the other appeared freshly dug. Around the holes for several feet the ground was completely bare (Fig. 1). Again in 1974 and 1975 a pair of flickers excavated cavities in the ground and as many as two eggs were laid in some of the nests (Fig. 2). However, the first rain following cavity excavation always eroded the walls and partially filled the hole with water. Several times in a season the birds would dig a new cavity, but they were apparently never successful in rearing a

brood. Occasionally Mr. Ganier found a broken egg near the cavities, suggesting that some predator also contributed to the flickers' problems.



Figure 1. Site of repeated nesting attempts in a cotton field by a Common Flicker.

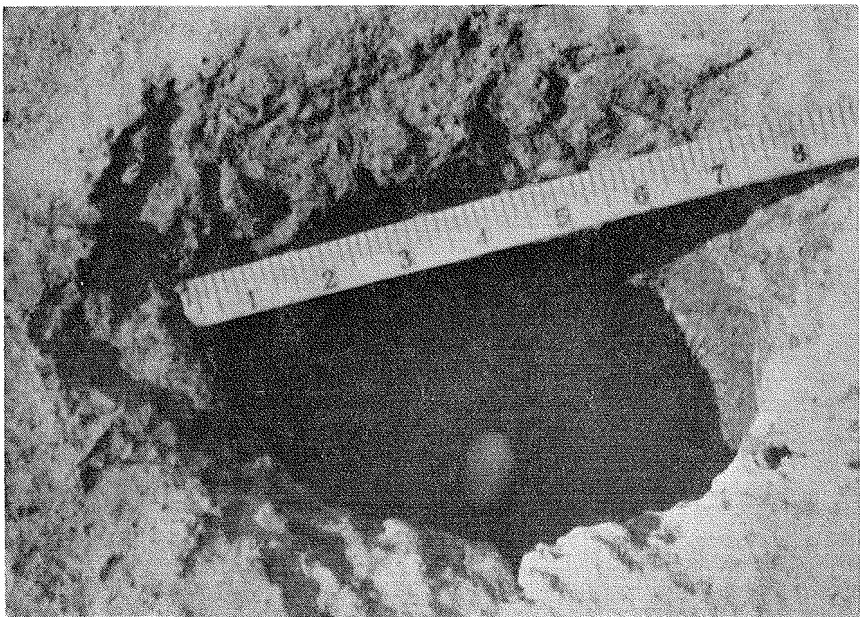


Figure 2. Nest excavation and egg of a Common Flicker.

The Common Flicker is well known for nesting in unusual places, for example, in buildings, in the hub of a wagon wheel, and in kingfisher or swallow burrows in vertical banks (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 174, 1939). A. F. Ganier (Wilson Bull. 38:116, 1926) once observed a persistent flicker remove over a bushel of sawdust in excavating a cavity in an insulating box around a water pipe. Unlike the persistence of our ground-nesting flickers, the "sawdust" flickers were eventually successful in raising young. Pearson (Birds of America, Part II, Garden City Publ. Co., Inc., p. 165, 1936) published a photograph of a clutch of flicker eggs in a shallow depression on bare ground, and Brown (Iowa Bird Life 42:98-101, 1972) photographed a flicker incubating eggs in a similar situation. Hamilton and Hart (Oriole 34:56-57, 1969) also found flickers attempting to nest on the ground in Georgia. Finally, Hamilton (Oriole 34:56-57, 1969) and Dorsey (Oriole 34:55-56, 1969) both found flicker nests excavated into the ground in the manner that ours was. Hamilton's nest was against a utility pole and was unsuccessful due to rain. Dorsey's nest in a lawn contained young which survived at least one rainstorm.

Reviews

Portraits of Mexican Birds. By George M. Sutton. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1975: 106 pp., 50 full color 12 X 15 inch reproductions of Sutton's paintings of Mexican birds. \$35.

George Sutton began drawing birds about 75 years ago and he is still an active artist. But Doc Sutton is more than an artist; he is a well respected scientist and author as well. As a field biologist Doc has the eye to pick up the nuances of behavior and ecology of a bird that a non-biologist would overlook. As an artist he has developed a sense of perspective and composition that makes his writing, as well as his drawing and painting, a joy to dwell on. Doc Sutton always gives due credit to his mentor, Louis Agassiz Fuertes, and indeed, he dedicates this volume of bird portraits to Fuertes. Though the influence of Fuertes on Sutton is clear, Sutton need not stand in the shadow of his master. Sutton is clearly the dean of contemporary American bird artists. This volume could be used as a standard of excellence by which to measure attempts to combine wildlife art and writing. The paintings and observations in this book were made over a period of 35 years and, as a result, one is able to study and appreciate the maturation of Sutton, the artist and ornithologist.

The format of "Portraits of Mexican Birds" is simple. There is a Foreword by Enrique Beltran, Director of the Institute for Mexican Renewable Natural Resources, University of Mexico. This gives the reader an appreciation for the significance of Sutton's work as it is recognized in Mexico. Next is a brief Preface by Sutton that lets the reader know where, when, and under what general conditions his paintings were made. Then follow the fifty paintings, each preceded by a page of text describing the subject of the painting and the circumstances under which the painting was made. On these pages is a wealth of information presented in a manner that is not only informative, but exciting, clever,

and full of understanding of the bird and the people with whom Sutton was working. There are few pages that won't elicit at least an internal chuckle, for Sutton has a way of capturing the amusement of any situation. Following the paintings is a brief commentary by Sutton that details more of the conditions under which he worked. This commentary is illustrated by two photographs of the artist at work in the field and three photographs of the areas where he worked. Included as a bonus with the book is an extra print of one of the paintings for framing.

My recommendation concerning this book is unequivocal: if you think it sounds like a great book to give to a friend, you're right - but don't buy just one copy - if you do, you won't give it away.
-J. A. Jackson

Parent Birds and Their Young. By Alexander F. Skutch. University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas, 1976: 503 pp., 116 black and white photographs, 18 tables, 19 figures. \$27.50.

Alexander Skutch is a naturalist who is well known for both his popular and scientific writing. He is a botanist, ornithologist, and philosopher who has resided in Costa Rica for the past 40 years. As an ornithologist Skutch is best known for his very detailed life history studies of tropical birds. In "Parent Birds and Their Young" Skutch draws on his intimate knowledge of tropical birds as well as on the major bird literature of the world to put together a well-written review of our knowledge of the reproductive activities of birds. The book contains 34 chapters, beginning with pair formation and progressing through such topics as territoriality, nesting seasons, nest-building, incubation, care of young, and ending with a discussion of those factors thought to regulate the rate of reproduction in birds. While this book is a useful scientific contribution, it is written and illustrated in a manner such that it can be enjoyed by anyone interested in birds. While most of the photographs are good, a few are out of focus and a few are of poor quality - but then, the subjects were often difficult ones to photograph. I found few typographical or factual errors in the book, but one which did bother me is Skutch's repetition (p. 222) of Heinz Seilmann's suggestion that woodpeckers elicit a begging response from their nestlings by pecking at the enlarged corners of their beaks. Nestling woodpeckers, kingfishers, and some other hole-nesting birds beg primarily in response to a change in light intensity which is caused by the parents blocking the light as they enter the nest cavity.

In general I recommend this book to anyone interested in the breeding biology of birds. It is an interesting and provocative review throughout which Skutch has added his own careful observations and interpretations.-J. A. Jackson.

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Wildlife Begins at Home. By Tony Soper. David & Charles, North Pomfret, Vermont, 1975: 128 pp., numerous photographs, numerous line drawings by Robert Gillmor. \$7.95.

This book is written around the idea that one needs only to step out the back door to observe wildlife. In spite of being written about a backyard in Britain and about British wildlife, Soper's book will cause the American reader to look around the yard with a new perspective and an eagerness to discover the secret lives that are being lived in the weeds that have escaped the mower and in the myriad of hiding places that our buildings and accumulated belongings provide. Soper has a disdain for well-kept gardens and a seeming love for weeds, but as he skillfully illustrates, carefully weeded gardens not only require continual work, but they are incapable of supporting the worms that aerate the soil and the other animals that might help him to control pests. Much of the book deals with birds, and most have American counterparts whose names could easily be substituted for the British ones with little loss in the accuracy of the statements. For example, for black-bird substitute robin, for green woodpecker insert flicker, for Blue Tit read chickadee. The Starling, House Sparrow, Rock Dove, Herring Gull, Barn Owl, (Barn) Swallow, and (Winter) Wren are, of course, the same species that we have. Tales of hedgehogs, foxes, and badgers in the backyard may seem foreign to Mississippians, but they make interesting reading. My only fault with the book is that at times it seems a bit too factual and lacking in personal anecdotes that would make one identify with the author. Nevertheless, this is the sort of book that anyone over the age of 10 with an interest in nature might enjoy and learn from.-- J. A. Jackson.

North American Game Birds of Upland and Shoreline. Paul A. Johnsgard. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1975: 183 pp., 22 color photographs, 29 black and white photographs, 29 maps, 2 diagrams, \$6.95, paperback.

This book includes basic general information on the distribution, identification, and ecology of 20 species of grouse, quails, partridges, and pheasants; 3 of pigeons and doves; 2 of shorebirds; and 8 of cranes, coots, gallinules, and rails. The color photographs are generally of very good quality and are well reproduced, though a few of them are obviously of caged birds. Reproduction of the black and white photographs is not as good as that of the color ones, perhaps a result of making black and white prints of color photographs. Additionally, in some cases there are two or more photographs of the same species that are so similar that they add little to the book except pages and cost. It is difficult to refer to specific photographs because these, as well as the pages on which they occur, are not numbered. In addition to the accounts of various species, there are tables of weights of game birds, estimates of annual harvests by hunters (35,000,000 Bobwhite, 9,826,000 Mourning Doves!), and a key to the major groups of North American game

birds. While I realize some hunters shoot things that they can't identify, it hardly seems necessary to provide a key to separate the ducks from quail, etc. At the end of the book is a useful list of additional references to the various groups and species of game birds. In general I feel that the average sportsman as well as many bird-watchers would find this book interesting and useful as a reference.-- J. A. Jackson.

Owls of the World: Their Evolution, Structure and Ecology. Edited by John A. Burton. A & W Visual Library, 95 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016, 1973: 215 pp., 99 color photographs, paintings by John Rignall, numerous maps. \$9.95, paperback.

This well-illustrated guide to the owls of the world includes chapters by 15 authors dealing with such subjects as: "Owls and Men", "The Origins of Owls", "What Makes an Owl", "Conservation", "Owl Pellets", and "Owl Voices", as well as with the various species of owls. The chapter on owls and men discusses the influences and significances of owls to different cultures and illustrates owls as portrayed in various art forms. Chapter 2 summarizes our knowledge of the fossil record of owls. Chapter 3 discusses the adaptations of owls for the various niches they fill. The figures in Chapter 3 illustrating the binocular vision, asymmetrical ears, eye structure, feather structure, and skeletal system of owls are very informative. The photographs, paintings, and range maps of the various species of owls are well-done and well-reproduced. The chapter on owl voices gives a phonetic interpretation and description of the calls of many species of owls. For my own use, I would like to have seen a more complete bibliography of works dealing with owls, but this deficiency detracts little from the book. I recommend the book as a handsome, useful reference to anyone with an interest in owls.--J.A. Jackson.

Traveler's List and Check List for Birds of North America. By James A. Tucker. American Birding Association, Inc., P.O. Box 4335, Austin, Texas 78765, 1975: 28 pp. \$1, paperback.

This is simply a checklist of all of the birds known to occur in North America. It is about the same size as the Mississippi checklist, but there is only one column of bird names per page and the remaining space on each page is ruled for checking the birds off when they are observed in different places. The birds are arranged in the AOU checklist order (as they are on the Mississippi checklist), but an alphabetical index at the end will be helpful to those not familiar with checklist order.--J.A. Jackson.

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Birds Around the State

Compiled by Jerome A. Jackson

The following is a summary of bird sightings in Mississippi and immediately adjacent areas by MOS members and friends during the time period 1 January through 30 June. These records include arrival and departure dates as well as records of the occurrences of unusual species in the state. Keys to places and observers follow the list.

- COMMON LOON -- 5 (breeding plumage), 30 Mar., Bluff L., WCW; 24,25 May, Horn I., WCW.
- BROWN PELICAN -- 3, early June, Horn I., RM.
- ANHINGA -- 25 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD -- 1, 12 May, Biloxi, W & WCW; 15, 13 May, Ocean Springs, W & WCW; 23 May - 20 Jun., Horn I., (max. 16 on 24 May) WCW; 21, 27 Jun., Ocean Springs to Horn I., WCW, JJ, WDB.
- GREEN HERON -- 18 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA.
- LITTLE BLUE HERON -- 18 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA; 27 Apr. (with eggs), Cliftonville (Heronry), JJ, DFW.
- CATTLE EGRET -- 18 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA.
- REDDISH EGRET -- 1, 21 May, Horn I., WCW.
- GREAT EGRET -- 14 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH; 25 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA; 27 Apr., Cliftonville (Heronry), JJ.
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON -- 29 Apr., Huntington Pt., NH.
- LEAST BITTERN -- 1 (female), 19 Jun., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 22 Jun., Yazoo NWR, WCW.
- WOOD STORK -- 3, 20 Jun., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- GLOSSY IBIS -- 2, 22 May, Greenwood, TG.
- WHITE IBIS -- 1 imm., 14 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 21 May, Warren Co., NH, WG, BQ.
- CANADA GOOSE -- 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- 5, 24 Jan., Yazoo NWR, WCW, JJ.
- SNOW GOOSE -- 5 white, 35 blue; 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- MOTTLED DUCK -- 2 (pair), 23 May, Horn I., WCW.
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL -- 29 Feb., Washington Co., E & GA; 30, 18 Mar., Graveline Bayou, WCW; 29 Apr., Huntington Pt., NH.
- AMERICAN WIGEON -- 1, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- WOOD DUCK -- (female with 16 new young), 22 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JJ.
- RING-NECKED DUCK -- 24 Feb., Noxubee NWR, JJ; 5, 14 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- LESSER SCAUP -- 10,000, 18 Mar., Bellefontaine Pt., WCW; 40, 27 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE -- 1 (female), 24 Jan., L. Washington, WCW, JJ, EA.
- BUFFLEHEAD -- 6 - 12, 24 Feb., Noxubee NWR, JJ; 2, 28 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- RUDDY DUCK -- 20, 24 Feb., Noxubee NWR, JJ; 30, 28 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- HOODED MERGANSER -- 4, 14 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER -- 1 (female), 2 (males), 24 Jan., L. Washington, WCW, JAJ, EA; 3, 8 May, Ocean Springs, WCW.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE -- 25 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA; 26 Apr., Huntington Pt., NH; 2 (copulation observed), 20 May, Archer I., Ark., NH.

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- COOPERS HAWK -- 1, 5 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH.
 BROADWINGED HAWK -- 1 mature, 2 imm., 18 Apr., Shaw, NH; 1, 19 May, D'Iberville, WCW.
 BALD EAGLE -- 2 imm., 4 Jan., Noxubee NWR, JAS; 2 imm., 7 Feb., Noxubee NWR, JJ; 1 imm., 24 Feb., Noxubee NWR, JJ.
 MARSH HAWK -- 1, 4 Jan., Noxubee NWR, JAS.
 OSPREY -- (at least 4 active nests, Chimney area, 1 pair nest-building) 17 Mar., Horn I., WCW, WDB; 1, 25 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 Fall and spring sightings, Archer I., Ark., NH.
 TURKEY -- 2 (males), 1 (female), 16 Apr.; (nest with 1 egg), 29 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH.
 SANDHILL CRANE -- 1, 13 Jun., near Gautier, WCW.
 KING RAIL -- 3, 19 Jun., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 SORA -- 1, 21 Mar., Ocean Springs, WCW.
 PURPLE GALLINULE -- 25 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA; 1, 22 Jun., Yazoo NWR, WCW.
 COMMON GALLINULE -- 25 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA; 2, 7 Jun., Horn I., WCW; 6, 22 June, Yazoo NWR, WCW.
 SEMIPALMATED PLOVER -- 1, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 2, 8 May, Ocean Springs, WCW.
 SNOWY PLOVER -- 2, 22 May, Horn I., WCW; 2, 20 June, Horn I., WCW, JJ, RR.
 AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER -- 18 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA.
 RUDDY TURNSTONE -- 2, 20 May, Ship I., WCW.
 SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- 1, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 18 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA; 5, 25 May, Horn I., WCW; 1, 28 May, Horn I., WCW.
 SOLITARY SANDPIPER -- 14 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH; 2, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 GREATER YELLOWLEGS -- 25, 18 Mar., Graveline Bayou, WCW; 18 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA.
 LESSER YELLOWLEGS -- 6, 11 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 PECTORAL SANDPIPER -- 2, 11 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 18 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA.
 WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER -- 2, 22 May, Horn I., WCW; 10, 23 May, Horn I., WCW; 1, 28 May, Ship I., WCW.
 LEAST SANDPIPER -- 20, 1 Feb., Oktibbeha County L., W & WCW; 50, 11 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 18 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA.
 SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER -- 3, 18 May, Bellefontaine Pt., WCW; 1, 28 Jun., Horn I., WCW.
 STILT SANDPIPER -- 4, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER -- 1, 25 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 15, 22 May, Horn I., WCW; 15, 24 May, Horn I., WCW; 2, 6 Jun., Horn I., WCW.
 SANDERLING -- 4, 8 Jun., Horn I., WCW.
 AMERICAN AVOCET -- 20, 28 Apr., Ross Barnett Reservoir, DW.
 BLACK-NECKED STILT -- 2, 22 May, Greenwood, TG.
 BONAPARTE'S GULL -- 6, 11 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 GULL-BILLED TERN -- 2, 23 May, Horn I., WCW; 5, 6 Jun., Horn I., WCW.
 COMMON TERN -- 6, 25 May, Bluff L., JJ.
 LEAST TERN -- (2100 pairs nesting), spring 76, Gulfport Beach, JT.
 SANDWICH TERN -- 2, 12 May, Ocean Springs, W & WCW; 2, 12 May, Ship I., W & WCW; 5, 28 May, Ship I., WCW; 13, 6 Jun., Horn I., WCW.
 CASPIAN TERN -- 1, 20 Jun., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 BLACK TERN -- 20, 12 May, Mississippi Sound (Biloxi - Ship I.), W & WCW; 15, 22 May, Horn I., WCW; 65, 6 Jun., Horn I., WCW.

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- BLACK SKIMMER -- 200, 18 Mar., Gulfport, WCW.
 YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO -- 17 Apr., Shaw, NH; 1, 8 May, Ocean Springs,
 W & WCW; 20 May, Washington Co., E & GA; 12, May 25, Horn I. WCW.
 GREAT HORNED OWL -- 1, 13 Jun., Ocean Springs, WCW.
 CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW -- 14 Apr., Starkville, JJ.
 WHIP-POOR-WILL -- 2,7,19 Apr., Shaw, NH.
 COMMON NIGHTHAWK -- 1, 23 Apr., Starkville, WCW; 29 Apr., Washington Co.
 E & GA; 1000, 19 May, Shaw, NH.
 CHIMNEY SWIFT -- 2, 28 Mar., MSU Campus, WCW.
 RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD -- 1, 11 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 2 (males),
 14 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH; 1, 25 May, Horn I., WCW.
 PILEATED WOODPECKER -- 1, 14 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH.
 DOWNY WOODPECKER -- 27 Apr., (with 1 wk. old young), Cliftonville, JJ.
 30 Apr., (feeding young), Huntington Pt., NH.
 EASTERN KINGBIRD -- 6 Apr., Starkville, JJ; 6 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JJ;
 22 Apr., Starkville, JJ; 30, 26 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH.
 GRAY KINGBIRD -- 2, 21 May, Horn I. WCW.
 GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER -- 1, 21 Mar., Jackson Co., WCW; 12 Apr., MSU
 Campus, JJ; 13 Apr., MSU Campus, WCW; 16 Apr, Shaw, NH.
 ACADIAN FLYCATCHER -- 10, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 EASTERN WOOD PEWEE -- 6 Mar., Starkville, TD; 3, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR,
 WCW; 1, 27 May, Horn I., WCW.
 VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- 2 (females), 24 Jan., L. Jackson, JJ.
 TREE SWALLOW -- 10, 24 Jan, L. Jackson, JJ, EA, WCW; (thousands), 13
 Apr. - 25 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA.
 BANK SWALLOW -- 2, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 12 May, Ship I., W &
 WCW; 3, 16 May, near Larue, WCW; 1, 26 May, Horn I., WCW.
 ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- 2, 28 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 BARN SWALLOW -- 7 Mar., Washington Co., E & GA; 2, 27 Mar., near
 Starkville, WCW.
 CLIFF SWALLOW -- 3, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 PURPLE MARTIN -- 2 (females), 20 Feb., Scooba, RW; 25 Feb., Washington
 Co., E & GA; 1, 28 Feb., MSU Campus, WCW.
 FISH CROW -- 1, 20 Apr., near Columbus, WCW.
 CAROLINA CHICKADEE -- 2 (in nest, unfeathered) 5 Apr., Archer I., Ark.,
 NH; 4, 1 May, Noxubee NWR, JJ.
 WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 1, 7 Feb., Noxubee NWR, WCW, EWP.
 RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 15 Jan., 30 Jan., Kosciusko, JAS; 6 Mar.,
 Washington Co., E & GA.
 HOUSE WREN -- 10 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA.
 WINTER WREN -- 14 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH.
 CAROLINA WREN -- 4, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 CATBIRD -- 10 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH; 1, 18 Apr., Starkville, WCW.
 WOOD THRUSH -- 1, 11 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 11 Apr., Washington Co.,
 E & GA; 14 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH.
 SWAINSON'S THRUSH -- 1, 7 May, MSU Campus, WCW; 2, 25 May, Horn I., WCW.
 VEERY -- 2, 25 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1 May, Washington Co., E & GA.
 BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 15, 17 Mar., Horn I., WCW, WDB; 25, 27 Mar.,
 Noxubee NWR, WCW; 28 Mar., Washington Co., E & GA; 1, 19 May, Shaw,
 NH.
 RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- 11 May, Washington Co., E & GA.
 WATER PIPITS -- 3 or 4, 4 Jan., Kosciusko, JAS.
 CEDAR WAXWINGS -- 150, 26 Jan, MSU Campus, WCW; 7, 26 May, Horn I., WCW.

- WHITE-EYED VIREO -- 27 Feb., Kemper Co., RW; 1, 17 Mar., Ocean Springs, WCW; 2, 27 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO -- 3, 27 Mar., Oktibbeha Co., WCW; 2, 27 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- SOLITARY VIREO -- 1, 3 Feb., Tombigbee Nat. For., RW; 1, 14 Feb., Tombigbee Nat. For., RW; 2, 28 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 19 Apr., Shaw, NH.
- RED-EYED VIREO -- 2, 11 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 25 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA; 8, 25 May, Horn I., WCW.
- WARBLING VIREO -- 3, 19 May, D'Iberville, WCW; 1, 25 May, Horn I., WCW.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER -- 1, 18 Mar., Noxubee NWR, RW.
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER -- 1, 2 Apr., 26 mi. N of Meridian, JJ, WCW; 40, 11 Apr., Noxubee NWR; 18 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER -- 1, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 5 May, Dorman L., WCW; 1, 20 Jun., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- WORM-EATING WARBLER -- 1, 11 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 17 Apr., Choctaw L., WCW.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER -- 3, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 17 Apr. - 9 May, Washington Co., E & GA; 25 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 27 Feb., Kemper Co., TD.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER -- 25 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH.; 1, 28 Apr., MSU Campus, WCW.
- NORTHERN PARULA -- 1, 17 Mar., Ocean Springs, WCW; 1, 27 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- YELLOW WARBLER -- 2, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 27 May, Horn I., WCW.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER -- 1 (male), 25 May, Horn I., WCW.
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER -- 23 May, Washington Co., E & GA.
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER -- 11 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA; 25 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH; 1 (male), 24 May, Horn I., WCW.
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER -- 1, 19 May, D'Iberville, WCW; 2 (females), 24 May, Horn I., WCW; 1 (female), 1 (male), 25 May, Horn I., WCW; 1 (male), 26 May, Horn I., WCW.
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER -- 3, 14 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER -- 1, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 25 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH.
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER -- 25 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH; 2 May, Archer I., Ark., NH; 3 (1 female, 2 males), 25 May, Horn I., WCW.
- BLACKPOLL WARBLER -- 1, 27 Apr., MSU Campus, WCW.
- PRAIRIE WARBLER -- 1, 22 Apr., near Starkville, WCW; 30 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH.
- PALM WARBLER -- 1, 17 Apr., Choctaw L., WCW; (many), 22 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JJ; 3, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH -- 1, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH -- 1, 24 Mar., Oktibbeha Co., WCW; 5, 28 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- KENTUCKY WARBLER -- 1, 14 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 8, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 25 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA.
- YELLOWTHROAT -- 1 (male), 21 Jan., Kosciusko, JAS; 27 Feb., Kemper Co., RW.
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT -- 1, 14 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH; 1, 17 Apr., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW.
- HOODED WARBLER -- 4, 11 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 29 Apr., Huntington Pt., NH.
- AMERICAN REDSTART -- 6, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.

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- BOBOLINK -- 1000, 24 Apr., Rocky Springs, RD, CB, FW; 25 Apr. - 9 May, Washington Co., E & GA; 100, 27 Apr., near Artesia, JJ; 100, 30 Apr., Archer l., Ark., NH; 1 (female), 3 May, Starkville Airport, JJ; 100's, 5 May, MSU Campus, JJ; 50, 6 May, Starkville, WCW; 8 (males), 12 May, Ship l., WCW; 150, 14 May, near Artesia, WCW; 1, 26 May, Horn l., WCW.
- EASTERN MEADOWLARK -- (nesting, 2 young, 2 eggs), 16 May, Oktibbeha Co., JJ.
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD -- 1 (male); 14 Apr., Archer l., Ark., NH.
- ORCHARD ORIOLE -- 1, 10 Apr., Archer, l., Ark., NH; 12 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA; 8, 17 Apr., Choctaw L., WCW.
- NORTHERN ORIOLE -- 18 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA; 1, 29 Apr., Starkville, WCW.
- BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE -- 4 Apr., (several) Pascagoula, JJ.
- SCARLET TANAGER -- 14 Apr., Archer l., Ark., NH; 1, 17 Apr., Choctaw L., WCW; 2 May, Archer l., Ark., NH.
- SUMMER TANAGER -- 1, 11 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 16 Apr., Shaw, NH.
- CARDINAL -- 1 (female), 17 Mar., Horn l., WCW, WDB.
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK -- 20 Apr., MSU Campus, JJ; 90, 26 Apr., between Jackson and Rocky Springs, RD, CB, FW; 2 May, Washington Co., E & GA.
- BLUE GROSBEAK -- 3, 17 Apr., Choctaw L., WCW.
- INDIGO BUNTING -- 2, 13 Apr., MSU Campus, WCW; 17 Apr. - 9 May, Washington Co., E & GA; 30, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1 (male), 28 May, Horn l., WCW.
- PAINTED BUNTING -- 1, 15 Apr., Archer l., Ark., NH; 25 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA.
- DICKCISSEL -- 18 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA; 10, 14 May, near Artesia, WCW; 100, 29 May, Huntington Pt., NH.
- EVENING GROSBEAK -- 60 to 80, Jan. to Mar., Sturgis, RW; 10 to 12, 2 Mar., Kosciusko, WVD; 2, 27 Mar., Oktibbeha Co., WCW; 10 (seen regularly) 28 Mar. to 16 Apr., Starkville, WCW; 30, 2 Apr., Macon, WCW, JJ.
- PURPLE FINCH -- flocks, 27 Mar., MSU Campus, JJ.
- PINE SISKINS -- flocks, 27 Mar., MSU Campus, JJ; small flock, 2 Apr., Macon, JJ; 400, 7 Apr., MSU Campus, WCW; many flocks of 50 or more, 10 Apr., Starkville, JJ; 100, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- RED CROSSBILL -- (pair nesting), Feb. to Apr., Noxubee NWR, RW, TD, JJ. (details to be published in next issue); 9, 7 Mar., Noxubee NWR, RW.
- SAVANNAH SPARROW -- 2, 4 May, Starkville, WCW.
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW -- 5 (females), 13 June, Fontainebleau BBS Rte., WCW.
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW -- 14 Apr., Archer l., Ark., NH.
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- 2 May, Washington Co., E & GA.
- SONG SPARROW -- 29 May, Washington Co., E & GA.

Key to Observers. -- EA = Ed Alexander, E & GA = Ed and Ginger Alexander, CB = Christine Berry, WDB = William D. Burke, TD = Tom Darden, WVD = Walter V. Davis, RD = Ruth Downey, WG = Warren Garrett, TG = Tom Gary, NH = Nona Herbert, JJ = Jerome A. Jackson, RM = Robert McDonald, EWP = E. W. Permenter, BQ = Bill Quisenberry, RR = Richard Rummel, JAS = James A. Sanders, JT = Judy Troups, RW = Randy Warren, WCW = Wayne C. Weber, W & WCW = Wendy and Wayne C. Weber, DFW = David F. Werschkul, DW = Doug Williams, FW = Frances Wills.

Key to Abbreviated Localities.--Archer I. = Archer Island, Arkansas, adjacent to Bolivar Co., Ms.; Artesia = Lowndes Co.; Bluff L. = Noxubee NWR, Oktibbeha Co.; Biloxi = Harrison Co.; Bellefontaine Pt. = Jackson Co.; Columbus = Lowndes Co.; Choctaw L. = Choctaw Co.; Dorman L. = Oktibbeha Co.; D'Iberville = Harrison Co.; Cliftonville = 3 mi. SW Cliftonville, Noxubee Co.; Fontainebleau BBS Route = Fontainebleau Breeding Bird Survey Route, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Jackson Co.; Greenwood = Leflore Co.; Gautier = Jackson Co.; Gulfport Beach = Harrison Co.; Graveline Bayou = Jackson Co.; Horn I. = Jackson Co.; Huntington Pt. = Bolivar Co.; Kosciusko = Attala Co.; L. Jackson = Washington Co.; L. Washington = Washington Co.; Larue = Jackson Co.; MSU Campus = Oktibbeha Co.; 26 mi. N of Meridian = along U.S. 45 in Kemper Co.; Noxubee NWR = Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Oktibbeha, Winston, or Noxubee Cos.; Ocean Springs = Jackson Co.; Pascagoula = Jackson Co.; Macon = Noxubee Co.; Ross Barnett Reservoir = Madison or Rankin Co.; Scooba = Kemper Co.; Shaw = Bolivar Co.; Ship I. = Harrison Co.; Starkville = Oktibbeha Co.; Tombigbee National Forest = Winston Co.; Between Jackson and Rocky Springs = Hinds Co.; Yazoo NWR = Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge, Washington Co.

Note to Contributors: Please submit your observations to be included in the next issue of the Mississippi Kite as soon as possible. Supply as much detail as possible for unusual records. For all records be very precise in giving localities, dates, and observers. Good quality photographs for use in the Mississippi Kite would be welcomed. Not all records received can be published. Those of most interest are: all early and late records of migrants, records of unusual species or unusual numbers of birds, and unusual breeding records. All breeding records of any species are desired for our nest record card file.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Black and Turkey Vultures are being banded and marked with white plastic tags on the right wing in the vicinity of Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge. The wing tags should be visible on top of the wing of perched birds and on the underside of the wing of birds in flight. These tags have a combination of a letter and a two-digit number painted on them. If you sight marked vultures, please send details of the sighting to Dr. J.A. Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

A survey is underway of colonies of all species of wading birds. If you know of the location of a heronry or colonies of other wading birds, please send details to Dr. J.A. Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

MINUTES OF THE 1976 SPRING MEETING OF
THE MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The annual spring meeting of the Mississippi Ornithological Society was held on April 2, 1976 in the Marine Resources Laboratory Library, Dauphin Island, Alabama.

The Society voted to renew the lease on the Heronry.

Mr. W. H. Turcotte, chairman of the Awards Committee, announced that Mr. Ed Alexander has been selected as the recipient of the Tucker Award. Mr. Alexander was cited as having generated a lot of interest in an area where there had been no interest.

The Society voted to send a letter of appreciation to Mr. Gandy for his long service as treasurer of MOS. Mr. Gandy has served as treasurer since 1961.

Mrs. Frances Wills presented Mr. Turcotte with a bound copy of all the newsletters and also with a pair of binoculars on behalf of the Society:

"Fifteen years ago our Editor helped to organize the MOS. He planned and led the field trips, was always in attendance at meetings, and very often gave the program. The Newsletter was the ingredient that held the Society together when interest was not as keen as it is today."

"We owe Mr. Turcotte a debt of gratitude for his faithful service to the MOS, for his many contributions to the Museum of Natural History, and for the interest and patience he has shown to beginning bird watchers. And so, Bill, it is with the greatest pleasure that I present to you on behalf of the membership these presents as a token of our appreciation."

Mr. Steve Peterson presented an entertaining and informative slide program on "The World of the Barred Owl". The slides were taken by Mr. Peterson of birds in the Mayes Lake area of Jackson.

Mr. Louis Cashman read the report of the Nominating Committee: President, Mr. Walter Davis; Vice-President, Mr. Carl Bauer; Secretary, Mr. Steve Peterson; Treasurer, Miss Evelyn Tackett; Editor of MOS Newsletter and Mississippi Kite, Dr. Jerry Jackson. The officers were elected by acclamation.

Mr. Ed Alexander announced the meeting time for birding Saturday. Members of the Mobile Bird Club guided MOS members to good birding spots. All groups met at 12 noon at the Shell Mounds for a final count. A total of 125 species of birds were seen. Unusual birds were a Grasshopper Sparrow and a nesting Oystercatcher.

After an afternoon of birding on their own, members gathered for a delicious seafood dinner in the auditorium. A movie of the Kirtland's Warbler was shown.

Incoming president, Mr. Walter Davis, thanked members and promised to do his best to promote the interests of the MOS.

Ruth E. Downey, Secretary

THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

Mississippi Ornithological Society
Organized 30 April 1955

Officers

President:	Mr. Walter Davis 104 Bell Street Kosciusko, MS 39090
Vice President:	Mr. Carl Bauer P.O. Box 396 Monticello, MS 39754
Secretary:	Mr. Stephen W. Peterson 2127 E. Northside Drive Jackson, MS 39211
Treasurer:	Miss Evelyn D. Tackett 744 Oakwood Jackson, MS 39202
Editor:	Dr. Jerome A. Jackson P.O. Drawer Z Mississippi State, MS 39762

MOS Memberships

Honorary	No dues
Life	\$50.00
Sustaining (annually or more)	10.00
Active (annually)	3.00
Corresponding (annually)	3.00
Library Subscriptions	5.00
Junior (students under 17)	2.00

Membership and subscription dues should be sent to the treasurer, Miss Evelyn D. Tackett, 744 Oakwood, Jackson, Mississippi, 39202. The Mississippi Kite is currently published irregularly and is sent to all classes of membership.