

MOS FIELD NOTES

Fulvous Tree duck: Burton S. Webster, Refuge Manager, Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Brooksville, Mississippi, reports in a letter to the editor, dated March 15, 1965: "You will be interested to know we banded a Fulvous tree duck on the Doyle (Creek) Arm of Bluff Lake (Noxubee County) on February 26, 1965. This is a record for Noxubee." This, also, may be a new record for this bird in Mississippi, although its passage to regions east of the state and points along the Atlantic Coast have been recorded. W. H. Turcotte,

The Spring Season -- Beginning about March 10 - 11, there were numerous reports of massive migration movements of Blue and Snow Geese. State newspapers carried accounts of migrating geese. On the night of March 11, the editor stopped at an all-night service station before dawn at Canton, Mississippi, and several flocks of geese were heard flying northward within a short period. The attendant reported hearing geese fly over most of the night. On March 24 and 25, the editor and Jacob Valentine, Management Biologist, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, visited the Sandhill Crane territory of Jackson County. Four or six (possibly) mated pairs were seen and others were heard at dusk and after nightfall at the south end of Ben Williams' pond. On March 25 a single Cattle Egret was recorded at Fountainebleau. The bird, evidently a new arrival, was beside Highway 90 in a ditch and seemed to have very weak flight. On March 27 numerous Blue-winged teal, all mated pairs, were seen at several locations in Yazoo County in 20 - 30 pair groups. Again, on the Ross Barnett Reservoir 60 Bluewings and 50 Lesser Scaup were recorded at the dam and 50 Bluewings, 300 Shovellers and numerous Coots were seen in the waterfowl refuge at Highway 43. Four Glossy Ibis were observed on April 1 and photographed (see inside front cover) on the waterfowl refuge area on the Reservoir in Madison County (WMT). These birds were feeding at the edge of the water of a flooded pasture just north of the pecan orchard at Highway 43 crossing. Apparently, these same birds and two others were first seen by Mrs. E. C. Bowers, Jr., at the same location on March 30 and 31, and tentatively identified as Glossy Ibis and described by letter to the editor dated April 2. Mrs. Bowers recorded two Yellow-crowned Night Herons feeding in a wet pasture four miles north of By Wyah overlook on the Parkway. Yellow Crowns and possibly Little Blues showed indications of possible nesting in the timbered part of the flooded waterfowl refuge on May 5. Six or more of these birds were seen trafficking back and forth towards the Barnett Reservoir

from this area. Three Pied-billed Grebes were nest-building or sitting in plain view 150 feet north of Highway 43 crossing in the flooded broomsedge field on April 22 (WHT). Eighty-seven (87) Golden Plovers were counted April 2 in a pasture one mile south of Moorhead, Miss., and 37 were observed in north Issaquena County with 50 Lesser and 9 Greater Yellowlegs on March 30 following a rain in flooded pasture (W. H. Turcotte and Henry Bobbs, Jr.). One Lesser Yellowlegs and a Jacksnipe were seen on Ross Barnett Reservoir (Madison County) on April 1 (WHT). Six Widgeon, five Gadwall were recorded near Scott, Miss., Bolivar County, on April 2 (WHT). A Solitary Vireo, carefully studied at close range with binoculars, was identified at Merigold Hunting Club, Bolivar County on April 2 (WHT). A single Common Loon in breeding plumage was recorded on Lake Lee (300 acres) near Saltillo, Mississippi, in Lee County on April 15 (WHT).

First Arrivals - 1965 Season: 3 Prothonotary Warblers, Yazoo County, March 27 (WHT); Harrison County, March 1, one bird (Mrs. George R. Smith, Pass Christian, Miss., Purple Martin, Feb. 10, Harrison County, 18 pairs on March 16 (Mrs. GRS). March 28 Northern Waterthrush (studied at length with binoculars - distinctly yellow sides, heavily streaked) Hinds County, west of Jackson (WHT), Black and White Warbler, Rankin County, March 29, Red-eyed Vireo, Hinds County, April 1, Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Rankin Co., April 1. Parula Warbler, Yazoo County, April 2, Summer Tanager, Cr. Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Warbler, Swainson Warbler, Amite County, 8 miles south of Liberty, Miss., April 5. W. H. Turcotte.

Spring Nesting Records: On April 19 Jacob Valentine and W. H. Turcotte found a Sandhill Crane nest with two eggs at Ben Williams pond in Jackson County, Mississippi. Both birds were at the nest. Three Cranes and six dummy or old nests with newly-added material were found at another location within a one hundred yard radius on Upper Perrigault Bayou north of Fort Bayou. One Crane but no sign of nesting was found at Bear Pond just north of Fontainebleau, Miss., on April 20. On April 20 a Red-cockaded Woodpecker nest, with both birds present, was in a living slash pine trunk about 15 feet above ground. Bark on the tree had been scaled off all around below and above nest cavity and a few new, small "cat-faces" pecked above the nest hole, exuding resin. The birds were probably laying as the male was seen trying to copulate with female. Nest tree location was about one mile north of Hilda Fire Tower on the Hilda Tower Road, Jackson County, Mississippi, in very open country

THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

among scattered pines. Another active Red-cockaded Woodpecker nest was found on April 30 along the Scenic Trail Road (FS 102) between Garden City and Highway 84 southwest of Meadville, Mississippi, Franklin County. This nest tree was beside this very high ridge road. Bark had been chipped above and below nest entrance with resinous "catfaces" above. Birds were not in evidence at nest. A pair of Robins raised a brood of young in nest on horizontal pine limb at my home west of Jackson, Hinds County. Young left the nest on May 6. A Wood Thrush sitting on nest in woods at my home, May 2. Starling nest with young in louvre of my house on May 2. The first Bluebird nest (with four eggs) seen in several years was found in Amite County, 8 miles south of Liberty, Mississippi, on April 6. This nest was in a crevice in a building about eight feet above ground. W. H. Turcotte
