

IN MEMORY OF ELIE GANIER

G. Edward Alexander, Jr.

346 S. Gamwyn Dr.
Greenville, Mississippi 38701

Elie J. Ganier, Jr. of Percy, Mississippi, and a life member of the Mississippi Ornithological Society, passed away 22 November 1995. He was the nephew of A.F. Ganier from Tennessee, who was recognized as one of Tennessee's outstanding ornithologists.

Elie and his lovely wife Jane actively participated in every single one of the Washington County (South) Christmas Counts since our first Count was held on 2 January 1972. Elie was a very quiet, understated person. He was a man of few words, but when he spoke he always had something significant to say. I remember one Christmas Count where, as usual, we met at Leroy Percy State Park for lunch. After we tallied the morning results, Elie raised his hand a quietly said "I had a bird that you didn't call out... I had a Surf Scoter on Deer Creek." And he had a Surf Scoter!

There were other significant contributions that he made to our Count, notably his discovery of a Burrowing Owl, an Oldsquaw, and a Lark Sparrow. He always had Brewer's Blackbirds, and I'm afraid we may be in trouble in the future without his help in finding them.

Back in the early sixties I was in the construction business and was working on his parent's home in Percy. Elie had a huge pair of binoculars and I remember he showed me a hummingbird nest. It is the only hummingbird nest I have ever seen. I believe that was the beginning of my interest in ornithology.

Later in the seventies Elie called me one day to tell me that he had a Sandhill Crane on his farm and he invited me down to see it. It was Springtime and all the farmers were cutting over their land and preparing their fields for

and all the farmers were cutting over their land and preparing their fields for planting. Elie refused to cut over about 25 acres until the crane decided to leave. I went down and was able to flush the crane in an area where the vegetation was over my head. I will never forget the thrill of watching that huge bird lift off, although it nearly scared me to death at the time.

I feel that I owe much to Elie Ganier concerning my own interest in birds. I knew him to be a fine businessman, an avid amateur ornithologist, the epitome of a Southern gentleman, and my very good friend. He will be missed by all of us.