Christmas Bird Count Summary - Additions and Corrections

Wayne C. Weber

Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

Results from the Natchez Christmas Count were received too late to be included in the Christmas Count summary in the May issue (Mississippi Kite 7:24-27). A correction also must be made for the Jackson count.

Natchez (Ralph Shields, compiler) - Dec. 18, 1976; hours? Weather clear, temp. 38° to 63° (wind?). 20 observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 51 (19 on foot, 32 by car); total party-miles, 250 (13 on foot, 237 by car). Total species, 94; total individuals, 5601.

Like most other groups in the state, Natchez observers had an excellent count, with a near-record 20 observers and a total of 94 species, highest since 1969, which also produced 94 species. Unusual species reported this year included 6 Eared Grebes (a record for the state?), 6 Anhingas, 7 Common Mergansers, a Vermilion Flycatcher (2nd year in a row!), 2 Sprague's Pipits, 2 Northern Orioles, a Painted Bunting, and a Henslow's Sparrow. Other birds considered unusual in the Natchez area were Snowy Egret (2) and American Woodcock (4). Northern Orioles have now been seen 4 years in a row on the Natchez count or in count period - what kind of goodies do you people put out to attract them to your feeders??

Jackson (William Turcotte, compiler) - The Bald Eagle total on this count should be one (adult), not 121! This number should also be corrected in the "Birds Around the State" section (Mississippi Kite 7(1):28).