

OCAS OFFICERS

Howard Malone: Treasurer
Ed Brown: Field Trip Chairman
Nancy Donald: CBC Coordinator
Ruth Ann Rosamond: Refreshments Coordinator
Daniel Burns: Newsletter Editor

Meetings are held at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Meridian every second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Trinity is located at 4223 Poplar Springs Drive.

Please use the SOUTH driveway on the church property (the one nearer downtown Meridian) and proceed around through the parking lot to the back, where you may enter the building through the double doors.

Next meeting: June 9, 2008

Okatibbee Creek Audubon Society

June 2008

***Be like the bird, who halting in his flight /
On limb too slight, / Feels it give way
beneath him, yet sings / Knowing he has
wings.***

--Victor Hugo, writer (1802-1885)

--contributed by Nancy Donald

Read OCAS' newsletter online at
<http://home.comcast.net/~ocas/>

Opinions in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Mississippi Audubon or of National Audubon but of individual writers. We view it as important to provide a forum for discussion and therefore we include articles from diverse sources where we can.

Summer Bird Feeding

As the warmer months roll around, many people stop setting the table for the birds. Little do they know that some of the most interesting feeder visitors can occur in late spring and early summer. Keeping the table set all year will assure the local bird population has a reliable source of food throughout all seasons. The number of birds per yard will decrease, due to the birds spreading out for breeding season. To counter this, ensure you have many different feeding stations widely spaced around your yard. This will allow more birds to feed in your yard all summer. Subtropical migrants like Tanagers and Orioles can be attracted by offerings of jelly and orange halves. These stunning birds are only resident in the summer. Feeder regulars like cardinals, titmice, chickadees, and woodpeckers will continue to visit feeders all summer. Many birds will learn to exploit summer feeders as a source of food for their nestlings. It is a common sight to see a parent bird flying off with a beakful of food for its young. After the young fledge, the parents will bring their young to the feeder. Close observation will

show the parents feeding their young. This is truly a sight to see and one of the many rewards of summer bird feeding. Later on in the summer as birds molt, this is a time of stress for them, and food at your feeder is welcomed.

Ensure that all feeders are kept clean over the summer. In the warmer months bacteria grows much faster, and feeders need to be cleaned more often. Use extra caution when feeding suet or peanut butter mix in the summer. If not rendered, suet will melt and foul the plumage of the birds. Use only rendered suet cakes in the summer. Peanut Butter mix should be put out in small quantities and in the shade if possible to prevent it from melting.

Hummingbird feeders should be kept up all year round, but in the later part of summer, Hummingbird activity will increase drastically as these little birds fuel up for migration. Be sure to keep Hummingbird feeders clean and free of mold.

I hope this article has given you a few tips on summer bird feeding, and enjoy bird watching this summer.