

IN AND AROUND
LEXINGTON
BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS

Conservation Corner

by James Cummins
Executive Director
of Wildlife Mississippi

The snow goose is an ever-increasing species of goose in Mississippi. It has two color phases, a blue phase and a white phase. “Snows,” as they are commonly called, are highly sought-after birds in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, but the increasing occurrence of larger populations still hasn’t generated a high demand by the Magnolia State’s waterfowlers.

The snow goose is 27 to 31 inches in length and averages about 4.5 pounds as a juvenile and almost 6 pounds as an adult. Adults of the white phase are completely white with black wing tips and pink feet, bill and legs. Immature white-face snow geese have a gray head, neck, back and upper wing surface. Wingtips are black and the bill and legs are grayish-brown.

Adults of the blue phase have a bluish-gray body and a white head, neck and tail. There are varying amounts of white on them. The bill, feet and legs are pink. Overall, this phase appears dull brownish-gray with a

gray upper wing.

Snow geese found in Mississippi nest in colonies in the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of North America from Baffin Island to Wrangel Island in Siberia. The largest colonies, however, are centered on the Western Coast to Hudson Bay. Snow geese nest on low, grassy tundra plains. Nests consist of scrapes on the grounds that are made with vegetation such as moss, grass, sedges and willows. Most snow geese do not nest until they are 3 or 4 years of age. The average number of eggs each goose lays is four, with a 60 to 90 percent hatching success, so there is no wonder the population is so large.

Snow geese begin migrating from the breeding grounds in mid-August with the most of it occurring in September. During migration, snow geese are found resting and feeding largely in agricultural areas consisting of corn and winter wheat. As they migrate south, they shift to a diet of rice, soybeans and winter wheat.



Joshua Haymer (pictured above center), of Lexington, recently served as a page for the Mississippi House of Representatives. Pages generally run errands for officials and House staff. Joshua is pictured with Speaker of the House Philip Gunn (at right) and Representative Bryant W. Clark who sponsored his visit. Joshua is the son of Erica Haymer and Barren Cleark and attends Central Holmes Christian School. When asked about the week, Joshua said, “My week at the Capitol was wonderful. I got to meet new people and I learned a lot of new things about the Capitol. It was a great experience being around the Representatives and sitting in on their sessions.” (Photo submitted)

Snow geese winter across the South Central and Western United States with the largest concentrations found in the central valley of California and the Gulf Coasts of Texas and Louisiana. In response to recent favorable habitat conditions, larger concentrations are wintering in Mississippi. The birds usually begin arriving in early December with the majority arriving in January. They remain here throughout winter and begin flying back to breed the first warm days of February.

Almost all snow goose management occurs on migration and wintering areas. As with other waterfowl, management consists of providing the geese with food and water, such as the rice fields of Mississippi.

James L. Cummins is executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, a non-profit, conservation organization founded to conserve, restore and enhance fish, wildlife and plant resources throughout Mississippi. Their web site is www.wildlifemiss.org.

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



DURANT NEWS

by Rowena Hill

Friends and family of Mrs. Carson (Katherine) Cagle are very glad she is home from spending time in a Jackson hospital. Prayers continue for her and also Cassie. She also hasn’t been well.

Mr. David Irby is spending time with his parents while recovering from recent surgery. All are thankful it went well and he is recovering well.

Friends of Mrs. Lucy Howell regret very much that she isn’t well. Her sons have spent time with her. Friends look forward to seeing and being with her at church and around town again soon. Prayers are for her.

Mrs. Cynthia Bratcher spent time during the week with family and enjoyed attending her

granddaughter’s ball games. We missed her.

Mrs. Frankie Farmer and Mrs. Valerie Farmer enjoyed spending time in Greenwood during the week.

Let’s not forget to reserve a place for the February 11th Valentine Meal and Program at First Baptist Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m.

Last Sunday, due to the rainy weather, only a small crowd attended church. Hope more can be present this Sunday. Brother Lyn really blesses our hearts with his sermons. Gale does a good job with the choir also. Make plans to attend if you don’t have a place to worship.

EXPRESS GRAIN COMMODITY PRICES						
Crop	CBOT Month	Delivery Period	Futures Price	EGT Basis	Net Price	Change
Wheat	Mar 17	2017 Feb	4.23	-0.57	3.66	-0.08
Wheat	Jul 17	2017 Jul	4.49	-0.27	4.22	-0.07
Corn	Mar 17	2017 Feb	3.64	0.08	3.72	-0.01
Corn	Sep 17	2017 Aug	3.85	-0.12	3.73	-0.01
Soybeans Sidon	Nov 17	2017 Aug Sep	10.17	0.00	0.00	0.00
Soybeans G'wood	Mar 17	2017 Feb	10.36	-0.07	10.29	0.09
Soybeans G'wood	Nov 17	2017 Aug Sep	10.17	0.01	10.18	0.07
Soybeans Minter City	Nov 17	2017 Aug Sep	10.17	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rice	Feb 17		9.485			-0.060
Rice	Sep 17		10.270			-0.030
Cotton	Mar 17		75.63			-0.780
Cotton	May 17		76.37			-0.700

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made clear in the Hobby Lobby case, in which Judge Gorsuch agreed that Obamacare mandates should not force business owners to violate their religious beliefs. He has also ruled against the removal of the Ten Commandments from public

(Continued on page 6.)

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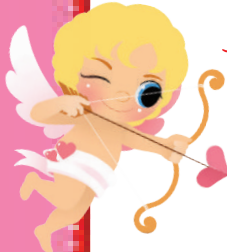
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