

Conservation Corner

by James Cummins
Executive Director
of Wildlife Mississippi

While the concept of four primary North American migratory bird flyways is taken for granted today, it didn't always exist. To understand the concept's importance, one needs to look no further than the dramatic saga of the whooping crane.

In 1941, the whooping crane was reduced to 15 individuals. Demand for feathers by the ladies' hat industry and agricultural drainage of nesting grounds had taken such a toll on North America's tallest bird that Aldo Leopold wrote it off as a

goner. Fortunately, recovery efforts have fostered a steady turnaround.

The fact that the majestic whooping crane did not follow the passenger pigeon into extinction owes to developments that preceded recovery efforts. Bird banding, for one, produced an understanding of migration that led to improved management strategies.

Bird banding is traceable to Ancient Rome. Modern records, however, credit naturalist John James Audubon with conducting the first banding study in North America when, in 1803, he attached silver wires to the legs of a brood of phoebes and noted the return of two the following year. While observers had long been aware of waterfowl migrations, leg banding in the 1900s hastened the rate at which science made practical use of the information, eventually spawning the flyway concept.

Ornithologist Frederick Lincoln spearheaded bird migration studies for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's predecessor, the Bureau of Biological Survey. "Recovery of banded ducks and geese accumulated so rapidly," Lincoln wrote, "that by 1930 it was possible to map out the four waterfowl flyways' great geographical regions, each with breeding and wintering grounds connected by a complicated series of migration routes."

Until then, most federal lands set aside for natural resources had been established as independent oases. Lincoln helped oversee an era of managing these lands so that habitat would be available to waterfowl throughout their journeys.

"When refuges were finally managed along flyways in the 1930s, they began functioning as a system; the parts became greater than the

Our greatest assets for the future

By Gary Andrews
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Our greatest assets for the future are our today's youth. We, as adults, have the responsibility to nurture and train our youth in values, morals, integrity, responsibility, ethics and optimism.

There is a Chinese Proverb that goes like this; "All the flowers of all the tomorrow's are in the seeds of today."

I am a product of the sixties and the hippie movement. I saw first-hand when the youth of the country starting rebelling against all authority and renouncing all they were ever taught. If it feels good do it! That was the saying of the day and most of the sixties youth participated in it. Probably some of the problems we are experiencing today are because of the training the youth of the sixties have given their own teenagers of today.

whole," said Service historian Mark Madison.

Lincoln went further, raising the science of collecting bird data to a new level, literally. As an aviator and a biologist, Lincoln knew the advantage that flight would bestow in tracking waterfowl populations, even if his predecessors had been unconvinced.

"Before Lincoln, the agency just didn't have much faith in combining biology with aviation," said Madison. "The idea of making like the birds in order to study them seemed like an extravagance." But the pilot-biologist idea ultimately did take off, so to speak, and the aerial survey program has been instrumental in waterfowl management ever since.

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.

Times have changed. We as parents of today may have waited too late to realize that we don't have the answer to every problem and that just possibly our parents were smarter than we thought.

A lot of problems in society today are because of our low morals, unethical values, lack of discipline, and no desire for what the future holds. Maybe our parents didn't care enough to discipline us in the ways we needed it most. Remember what King Solomon told us in Proverbs 13:24; "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him."

Now that we are parents and the adults trying to maintain a trouble free environment for our children, we wish that our younger years could have been more of listening and learning instead of rebelling and doing what felt good.

For me, I am an optimist. I don't feel it is too late to pave a good road for a brighter future for the young people of America and the world. We need to bring our morals and ethics up to standard and then pass on to our children the idea of doing things right the first time. We need to act and talk positive. Let's be more energetic about the future and teach them the values of what life should be about.

More optimism and good positive feedback is what our youth need. They need to feel good about themselves and the road they are travelling on. They need to have sense of direction and a destination that will provide them a safe comfort zone when they have achieved it. Let's teach them the difference be-

tween right and wrong!

Even though we can't correct the mistakes we have made in our past we can help someone younger than we are from making the same mistakes. It is up to us as to what the future holds for America and the entire world. The seeds that we are planting today determine how pretty and bright the flowers of tomorrow are going to be!

Prayer: Thank you Father for all you have allowed me to have. Help me seek your face in all that I do for without you I am nothing. Help me to be a good example for our youth today and to teach them

about you and your Saving Grace. Amen.

Suggested daily Bible readings: Sunday - Exodus 32:17-35; Monday - Matthew 19:16-30; Tuesday - 2 Samuel 12:1-14; Wednesday - Psalm 20:6-8; Thursday - Ephesians 4:1-6; Friday - Philippians 1:3-6; Saturday - Proverbs 5:11-14.

Gary Andrews is the author of *Encouraging Words: 30-days in God's Word*. To obtain a copy go to his website www.gadevotionals.com.

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EXTENSION TO YOU

By Betsy Padgett
Holmes County Extension

Holmes County Extension Service has moved to new office space. No longer confined under the old Jail at 113 China Street in Lexington, State's Extension "arm" has a new building at 299 1/2 Yazoo Street in the Fred's store parking lot (the former Factory Connection building).

Though not totally settled in at the new location, the staff is already enjoying the new space and set up to provide service as usual for this new year 2018.

Getting into a new building has been a long time in the "works." Credit our County Board of Supervisors with their perseverance in this project and as Mr. Young, president of the Board, stated at December's celebration luncheon (in the new building)

"thank the good Lord for His provision." Patience was key for the staff as they endured and mopped up after most rains left several offices under the old jail perpetually wet.

Being housed under the old jail was always a great starter for many jokes about the Holmes County office and at one point when water rained down from pipes overhead a brand new Extension district supervisor visiting for the first time was welcomed to the "spa."

Hopefully, this new building will not be fodder for jokes and will be an asset not only to our staff but to our ability to service our clientele and county more efficiently.

An open house will be planned for later March, but please come down and see us in our new "digs."



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