

# MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

*Founded in 1955 to promote scientific research and encourage greater appreciation of native birds.*

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Volume 45, Number 4

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*Ictinia mississippiensis*

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AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**MOS NEWSLETTER:** Gene and Shannon Knight (December issue)

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Mark Woodrey

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**MISSISSIPPI IMPORTANT BIRDING AREAS:** Carolyn Jarnigan

**NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT:** Marion Schiefer, State Coordinator/Compiler

**AMERICAN BIRDS:** Terence Schiefer, State Editor

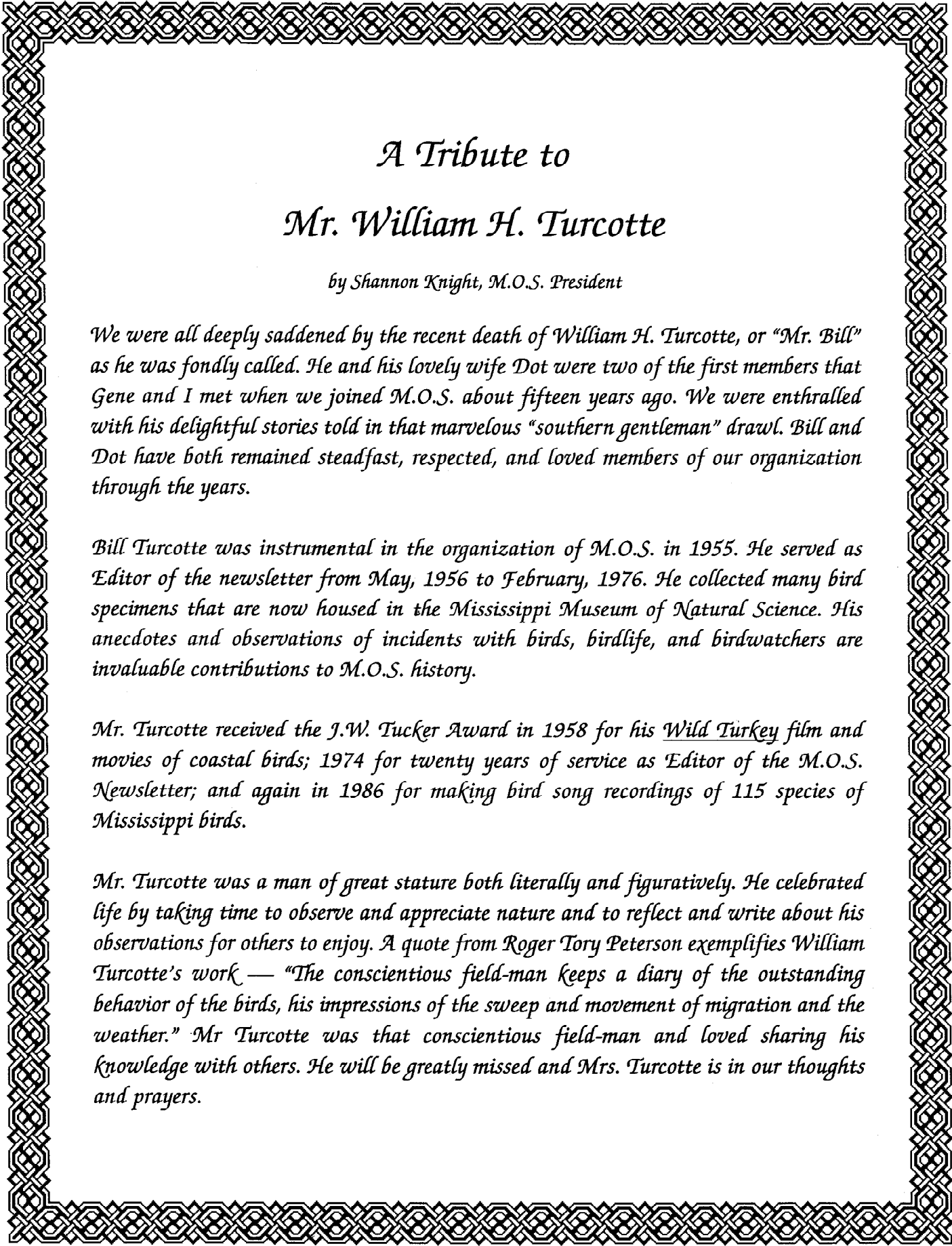
**INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAYS:** Mary Stevens, MMNS

**MISSISSIPPI BIRD INFORMATION**

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**HOTLINE:** 228-435-7227

**ONLINE:** [MISSBIRD@olemiss.edu](mailto:MISSBIRD@olemiss.edu)



## A Tribute to Mr. William H. Turcotte

by Shannon Knight, M.O.S. President

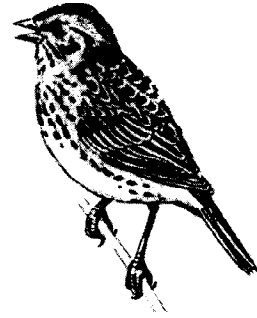
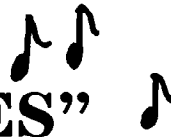
*We were all deeply saddened by the recent death of William H. Turcotte, or "Mr. Bill" as he was fondly called. He and his lovely wife Dot were two of the first members that Gene and I met when we joined M.O.S. about fifteen years ago. We were enthralled with his delightful stories told in that marvelous "southern gentleman" drawl. Bill and Dot have both remained steadfast, respected, and loved members of our organization through the years.*

*Bill Turcotte was instrumental in the organization of M.O.S. in 1955. He served as Editor of the newsletter from May, 1956 to February, 1976. He collected many bird specimens that are now housed in the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. His anecdotes and observations of incidents with birds, birdlife, and birdwatchers are invaluable contributions to M.O.S. history.*

*Mr. Turcotte received the J.W. Tucker Award in 1958 for his Wild Turkey film and movies of coastal birds; 1974 for twenty years of service as Editor of the M.O.S. Newsletter; and again in 1986 for making bird song recordings of 115 species of Mississippi birds.*

*Mr. Turcotte was a man of great stature both literally and figuratively. He celebrated life by taking time to observe and appreciate nature and to reflect and write about his observations for others to enjoy. A quote from Roger Tory Peterson exemplifies William Turcotte's work — "The conscientious field-man keeps a diary of the outstanding behavior of the birds, his impressions of the sweep and movement of migration and the weather." Mr Turcotte was that conscientious field-man and loved sharing his knowledge with others. He will be greatly missed and Mrs. Turcotte is in our thoughts and prayers.*

# “CALL NOTES”



BY SHANNON KNIGHT  
M.O.S. PRESIDENT

The Fall Meeting at J. P. Coleman State Park was enjoyed by all who attended. It has been quite a few years since M.O.S. has met in this beautiful area. A big THANKS! to Carolyn Jarnigan for making all the arrangements single-handedly.

Members voted and approved the new slate of officers presented by our nominating committee. Terri Jacobson-Manzo will replace Mary Stevens as vice-president and Elsie Croft will take over the secretarial position previously held by Dianne Patterson. I want to thank Mary and Dianne for all their help and welcome Terri and Elsie on board. The group tallied a species list of ninety birds. Bruce Reid spoke to the group about his new duties with National Audubon Society.

Congratulations to Robert and Mary Dunnel for winning the 1999-2000 Yard List Contest with 142 species! Thanks to all those who participated. By popular request we are starting a new contest in January.

I encourage all of you to participate in a Christmas Bird Count. It will lift your spirits! Dates and names of organizers are listed in the newsletter. Have a safe and happy holiday season and enjoy the winter birds!

## ANNOUNCING NEW YARD LIST CONTEST!

**RULES:** Anyone may participate. All you have to do is record on a Checklist of the Birds of Mississippi the date you first see or hear a bird in your yard.

**DATES:** January 1, 2001 - December 31, 2001

**PRIZE:** For the most species—FREE Family or Individual M.O.S. dues for one year.

Mail your card or duplicate to Gene and Shannon Knight, 79 Hwy. 9 W, Oxford, MS 38655.

# Christmas Bird Counts (CBC)

(14 Dec. – 5 Jan.)

## Bird Counts Scheduled for Mississippi, 2000-2001

- Saturday, 16 Dec., **Noxubee NWR**, Terence Schiefer, 662-324-3748,  
tschiefer@entomology.msstate.edu
- Saturday, 16 Dec., **Sardis Lake**, Marvin Davis, 662-234-1773 or 662-915-5151,  
marvdavs@olemiss.edu
- Saturday, 16 Dec., **Sidon**, Philip Barbour, 662-455-4166, barbourpj@microsped.com
- Saturday, 16 Dec., **Tupelo**, Charlotte Icardi, 662-287-9871, icarus100@aol.com
- Saturday, 16 Dec., **Vicksburg**, David King, 601-638-4429, djbking@magnolia.net
- Monday, 18 Dec., **Church Hill**, Genevieve Tharp, 601-442-4622, getharp@telapex.com
- Thursday, 21 Dec., **Eagle Lake**, David King, 601-638-4429, djbking@magnolia.net
- Friday, 22 Dec., **Grenada**, Marvin Davis, 662-234-1773 or 662-915-5151,  
marvdavs@olemiss.com
- Saturday, 23 Dec., **Arkabutla Lake**, Rob Peeples, 901-755-8671,  
wpeeples@MidSouth.it.com
- Tuesday, 26 Dec., **Sumner**, Genevieve Tharp, 601-442-4622, getharp@telepex.com
- Thursday, 28 Dec., **S. Hancock Co.**, Jerry Bird, 228-452-3676, birddj@worldnet.att.net
- Saturday, 30 Dec., **Hattiesburg**, Larry Smith, 601-264-8364, JLarrySm@aol.com
- Saturday, 30 Dec., **Jackson**, Mary Stevens, 601-956-7444, library@mmns.state.ms.us
- Saturday, 30 Dec., **Lauderdale Co.**, Van McWhorter, 601-626-7224,  
dmcwhort@emced.msstate.edu
- Sunday, 31 Dec., **S. Washington Co.**, Ed Alexander, 662-332-1655, aepa@techinfo.net

### DUNNELLS WIN YARD LIST CONTEST!

Congratulations to Robert and Mary Dunnell of Natchez for listing a total of 142 species for the 1999-2000 Yard List Contest. Their M.O.S. dues will be paid for the year 2001.

LOOKING AHEAD: The Spring Meeting will be held on the Gulf Coast. Tish Galbraith is working on accommodations and arrangements. More information will be forthcoming in the March issue.

# Species List

## M.O.S. Fall Meeting, October 28 & 29, 2000

### Tishomingo and Alcorn Counties

Pied-billed Grebe	Rock Dove	European Starling
Double-crested Cormorant	Mourning Dove	Cedar Waxwing
Great Blue Heron	Barred Owl	Tennessee Warbler
Great Egret	Belted Kingfisher	Orange-crowned Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Red-headed Woodpecker	Magnolia Warbler
Canada Goose	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Wood Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Black-throated Green Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Downy Woodpecker	Pine Warbler
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Palm Warbler
Northern Pintail	Northern Flicker	Northern Cardinal
Northern Shoveler	Pileated Woodpecker	Eastern Towhee
Gadwall	Eastern Wood Pewee	Chipping Sparrow
American Wigeon	Eastern Phoebe	Field Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Blue-headed Vireo	Vesper Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Blue Jay	Savannah Sparrow
Northern Harrier	American Crow	LeConte's Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Tree Swallow	Song Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Carolina Chickadee	Lincoln's Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow
American Kestrel	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Merlin	Brown-headed Nuthatch	White-crowned Sparrow
American Coot	Brown Creeper	Dark-eyed Junco
Killdeer	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Greater Yellowlegs	Winter Wren	Eastern Meadowlark
Lesser Yellowlegs	Sedge Wren	Common Crackle
Western Sandpiper	Marsh Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Least Sandpiper	Golden-crowned Kinglet	House Finch
Pectoral Sandpiper	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Pine Siskin
Dunlin	Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch
Long-billed Dowitcher	Hermit Thrush	House Sparrow
Common Snipe	American Robin	
Ring-billed Gull	Northern Mockingbird	
Herring Gull	American Pipit	Total Species 96

## Winter Sparrow Workshop: Oxford, MS — February 3 and 4, 2001

Enjoy this frustrating group of birds instead of just labeling them as hard-to-see, sneaky little streaky sparrows. We will combine habitat, field marks, and a special emphasis on call notes to ease your identification problems; 10 plus species are expected.

February 3, 2001 (Friday) 6:00-9:00 p.m.— Snacks and I.D. Discussion

February 4, 2001 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.—Applying the Friday night workshop in the field, visiting various habitats, seeing lots of sparrows.

The Friday night workshop will be held at the home of Gene and Shannon Knight, 79 Highway 9W, Oxford, MS. The Saturday field trips will start at Sardis Lake and end in the Mississippi Delta. There will be a \$10.00 fee per person, and the workshop will be limited to the first 15 registrants. To assist in registration parties/groups of 3 or less are essential. T-shirts will be available with a North Mississippi Sparrow Workshop and date logo for \$20 each. Registration will be by phone only to Gene Knight 662-236-2413, 6:00-10:00 p.m.

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### ORDER FORM – MOS ITEMS FOR SALE — PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE CHARGES

Send Me:

<b>MOS T-SHIRTS</b> (with flying Miss. Kite), SIZES S, M, L, XL, \$17.00 ea.	# _____	\$ _____
<b>MOS MS KITE LOGO PATCHES</b> (for your cap or jacket), \$5.00 ea.	# _____	\$ _____
<b>MOS FIELD CHECKLISTS OF BIRDS OF MISSISSIPPI</b> , \$0.50 ea.	# _____	\$ _____
<b>BEN COFFEY'S MID-SOUTH BIRD NOTES</b> , (reprint collection) \$10.00	# _____	\$ _____
<b>BACK-ISSUES, THE MISSISSIPPI KITE JOURNAL</b> , @ \$2.50 ea., inquire for Years and Nos. Available.		

### PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO M.O.S. MAIL CHECK AND ORDER FORM TO:

Jan Dubuisson, MOS Treasurer  
22410 Glad Acres  
Pass Christian, MS 39571

**Mississippi Ornithological Society**

**Membership Form**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual, \$15 yr.

Subscribing (libraries), \$10 yr.

Family, \$25 yr.

Sustaining, \$30 yr.

Student/Senior, \$10 yr.

Life, \$300

Make check payable to: MOS

Send to: Janet Dubuisson, MOS Treasurer

22410 Glad Acres

Pass Christian, MS 39571

*Dues are payable in January of each year. Check mailing label for your dues status.*

Mississippi Ornithological Society

79 Highway 9 W

Oxford, MS 38655

Check your expiration date >>>>>>