

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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IN THIS ISSUE

- ❁ PRESIDENTS' CORNER
- ❁ RECAP OF FALL MEETING
- ❁ SPECIES LIST
- ❁ DETAILS OF WINTER 2003 MEETING

**MOS OFFICERS
AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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VICE-PRESIDENT: Carl Smith TREASURER: Jan Dubuisson
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Shannon Knight

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MOS NEWSLETTER: Gene and Shannon Knight

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BIRD RECORDS: Terence Schiefer, Chairman, Charles Delmas, Gene Knight,
Philip Barbour, Paul Hamel

NOMINATING: Marion Schiefer, Jan Dubuisson, Dianne Patterson

TUCKER AWARD: Gene Knight, Nona Herbert, Gerry Morgan

**REPRESENTATIVES
TO SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

MISSISSIPPI WILDLIFE FEDERATION: Mary Stevens
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

HOTLINE: 228-435-7227

ONLINE: MISSBIRD@olemiss.edu

PRESIDENTS' CORNER

By Margaret Copeland and Marion Schiefer
M.O.S. Co-Presidents

With a shared presidency, the two of us hope that MOS will grow in numbers, in commitment, in activity, and in importance in the birding world from 2002 to 2004!

This is an exciting time—Mississippi is in the middle of an atlas project, an Important Bird Areas project, the Partners in Flight Project, the Pascagoula River Project, and all of the other important local, state, and regional activities that each of us is participating in and supporting. We want you to share your projects and activities with MOS, to get help from MOS members, and to involve MOS in these activities. Together we can make Mississippi a positive place for birds, birders, and birding!

Our initial goals are the usual ones—to keep the organization going and growing; to get and keep our publications current and relevant; to involve more young people in our activities; and to somehow increase public awareness of the economic benefit of ecotourism (birding and other non-consumptive outdoor activities) in order to protect and enhance habitat.

As we look ahead, we want to hear from you—what would you want MOS to be doing? What are your suggestions for programs, places to have meetings, projects that we should be supporting? Marion has e-mail at marion_schiefer@hotmail.com; and both Marion and Margaret have “slow mail” or phone--P. O. Box 1505, Starkville, MS 39760 and 662-324-3748 for Marion; 909 Evergreen Street, Starkville, MS 39759 and 662-323-1445 for Margaret. Let us hear from you.

Our first MOS Board meeting will be at the spring MOS meeting. We urge our members to attend the open Board meeting on Friday night at 7:30 p.m. after the social. If you cannot come, call or write to us so we know what you are thinking. The Board represents you and YOU are important to MOS. And, WE (MOS members) are important to the survival and protection of birds in Mississippi.

JENNY THOMPSON TO SPEAK AT SPRING MEETING

Jenny Thompson, the new Partners in Flight Coordinator/Eagle Nest Coordinator at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, will be the featured speaker at the MOS meeting banquet on Saturday evening, March 1. As part of her duties in her new job, she is working on developing a statewide Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan, working with other bird conservation groups, such as Audubon and MOS, and is a liaison on bird conservation issues between state and federal agencies and private organizations. She is also the Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Coordinator. Jenny came to the Museum from Mississippi State University, where she received her Master's Degree in Wildlife in December, 2002. There she studied the response of plant and avian communities to prescribed fire and selective herbicide treatments in thinned mid-rotation loblolly pine plantations in Mississippi. She earned her B.S. in forestry and wildlife at Virginia Tech in 1998. Her interests include bird watching, avian conservation, and environmental education. Jenny will be talking to us about the latest projects related to Partners in Flight and also her work as Eagle Nest Coordinator, and discussing with us the ways in which MOSers can increase their involvement in these projects.

**RECAP OF THE OCTOBER 4-6 FALL MEETING
STARKVILLE, MS**

The MOS Fall Meeting was held on Oct. 4-6, 2002, in Starkville. It was graciously hosted by the Oktibbeha Audubon Society and MOS members in the Starkville-Columbus area. The Friday night gathering provided plenty of good food and good company. Madge Lindsay, Director of Strawberry Plains, along with Bruce Reid, extended a welcome to MOS to join hands in supporting each other in endeavors for birds, habitats, and environmental issues. Field trips and leaders were assigned.

The Saturday evening banquet was held at the new Noxubee Conservation Center at Noxubee NWR. After a brief welcome and thanks to organizers the meeting was called to order by President Shannon Knight. Jan Dubuisson presented the Treasurer's Report. In old business MS KITE Editor, Mark Woodrey, notified MOS that he hoped to have three KITES ready by December to be mailed out. He sent a draft of one of the KITES. It was announced that the Spring 2003 Meeting will be held at Leroy Percy State Park.

Nominating Committee Chairman Dianne Patterson then presented the nominations for new officers as follows: Co-Presidents-Margaret Copeland and Marion Schiefer; Vice-President-Carl Smith; Secretary-Francis Henne; and Treasurer-Jan Dubuisson. The nominations were approved unanimously.

Terry Schiefer conducted the Species Tally which resulted in a total of 136 species for the weekend.

Stephen J. Dinsmore, speaker for the evening, was then introduced by Shannon. Stephen gave an informative computer-generated preview of interesting facts about shorebirds--bill adaptations, migrations, plumages, mating systems, residency patterns, population estimates and trends, and in particular the population biology of the Mountain Plover which he has studied for over four years in Phillips Co.,MT. He concluded his presentation with some lively and light-hearted slides of shorebirds.

The Sunday morning field trips were announced and the board was asked by the new presidents to remain for a short meeting afterwards. The meeting was then adjourned.

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WITH SYMPATHY: Since our last newsletter we have been saddened by the death of Ginger Alexander, wife of Ed, and Sandra Davis, wife of Marvin. Both Ed and Marvin and their families have been and continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.
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SIXTH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT--FEBRUARY 14-17, 2003: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society are asking once again that birdwatchers of every age and skill level count the birds in their backyards at least one of the days between Feb. 14 and 17, 2003, and then enter their sightings at BirdSource. The purpose of the count is to gather information about birds' movement and overall health by focusing on the common backyard birds. More information and instructions for participating can be found at or by calling the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at 1-800-843-2473.
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DATES AND PLACE OF MOS FALL MEETING: The 2003 Fall Meeting of MOS will be held the weekend of Aug. 8-10 in Natchez. MOS will participate in the shorebird count at St. Catherine's Creek National Wildlife Refuge, which is a short distance south of Natchez. Mark this weekend on your calendar now to reserve these dates. Details will be included in the next newsletter.
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WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A WINTERING HUMMINGBIRD

We thought that since so many wintering hummingbirds are showing up, this list of contact persons, banders, and affiliates would be good for everyone to keep by their phones or on file. Some info from the Sargents--"The magic cutoff date for the last departure of Ruby-throated hummingbirds is roughly Nov. 15. In some instances a few Ruby-throated may linger past that date, but the chances of that occurring are quite small. The first of the adult male Rufous hummingbirds can appear in the eastern United States as early as mid July! Any hummer in your yard with a brown back is a male Rufous hummingbird. We want to know about any such sighting immediately if you can do so. Please report any very large or all-green hummingbird to the nearest bander on the list below, or to Bob Sargent as soon as possible."

Bob and Martha Sargent...All States...Phone 205-681-2888...Fax (24 hours) 205-681-1339...Email Rubythroat@aol.com

Doris Hope...Gulf Coast area...Phone 228-255-9561

Fred Bassett...Email Fhound@aol.com ...South Alabama and Florida

Chris Sloan...Email chris.sloan@comcast.net ...All of Tennessee and Kentucky

Rusty Trump...Email Rusty_Trump@hotmail.com ...Georgia

Dr. Bob Daly...Email rawdaly@UNA.EDU ...Northwest Alabama

Mary Gustafson...Email Live4Birds@aol.com ...Virginia and Mid-Atlantic States

Fred and Brandee Moore...Email fmoore@wwisp.com ...Eastern TN, Western VA

Susan Campbell...Email ncaves@utinet.net ...North and South Carolina

Gary Phillips...Email walela@sccoast.net ...South Carolina

Scott Weidensaul...Email sweidnsl@Pottsville.infi.net ...PA & Mid-Atlantic States

Allen Chartier...Email amazilial@Comcast.net ...Michigan, Ohio, and Canada

SPRING MEETING - FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 2, 2003
LEROY PERCY STATE PARK

The 2003 spring meeting will be held at Leroy State Park in the Delta area of the state the weekend of February 28-March 2. The Park is located about 9 miles west of Hollandale on Hwy. 12 (Hollandale is about 20 miles south of Greenville). Several excellent birding areas are located near the park, including Lake Washington, Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge, and a lot of Delta catfish ponds. Both Friday and Saturday night activities will be held at the Lodge meeting room at the Park. As usual, advanced registration will be required for both nights' activities so we can determine the number of people to have the Park staff prepare food for. The registration fee, which covers costs for a light supper and the use of the meeting room on Friday night, will be \$8.00. The Saturday night banquet fee, which includes a full meal and the use of the meeting room, is \$15.00, a total of \$23.00 for those attending both nights. Please fill out the registration form on the last page and mail it, along with your fees, to Jan Dubuisson in time to reach her no later than February 14th.

ACCOMMODATIONS - There are a limited number of cabins available at the Park, ranging in price from \$35 to \$59 per night. Also there are camping sites available. Contact the Park for details and availability at 662-827-5436.

Blocks of rooms under the name of MOS have been reserved at the following hotels in Greenville (about 30 minutes away from the Park), but will be held only until February 1. Both hotels are located on Hwy. 82 east of Hwy. 1:

Hampton Inn - 662-334-1818 - \$50 per room per night

Best Western Regency Inn - 662-334-6900 - \$59 for interior room and \$49 for exterior room.

Ones staying at the park need to provide their own breakfast food. Everyone needs to bring snacks and/or sandwiches for Saturday noon, because there will probably not be any restaurants or fast food places near the field trip areas. The Park does have a Sunday noon buffet for \$8.00. If you are interested in this meal, please indicate it on the registration form.

FRIDAY EVENING - FEBRUARY 28

- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Lodge dining room - Social hour - light supper provided
- 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Discussion of plans for field trips on Saturday
- 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Open board meeting - all MOS members are welcome - come with your ideas and suggestions to improve MOS

SATURDAY - MARCH 1

- 6:45 - 7:00 a.m. Meet at Park Lodge parking lot for field trips-depart promptly at 7:00 a.m.
- 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. Banquet in Park Lodge dining room and Species Tally for meeting
- 7:15 - 8:00 p.m. Featured Speaker - Jenny Thompson, Partners in Flight Coordinator/ Eagle Nest Coordinator, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
- 8:00 - 8:30 p.m. Brief meeting of Board members

SUNDAY - MARCH 2

- 7:30 a.m. Field trips - meet at Park Lodge parking lot
- 12:00 noon Buffet at Park Lodge for those who signed up

MOS SPRING 2003 MEETING - REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Additional Person(s):

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Registration/Friday evening: \$8.00 per person ___ Person(s) X \$ 8.00 = \$ _____

Banquet/Saturday evening: \$15.00 per person ___ Person(s) X \$15.00 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

_____ Please indicate number of people registered on this form that want to eat at the Park's buffet at noon on Sunday, March 2

Please make check payable to M.O.S. Mail check and registration form to:

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

Mail the registration form to reach Jan no later than February 14.

ORDER FORM - MOS ITEMS FOR SALE -- PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE CHARGES

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