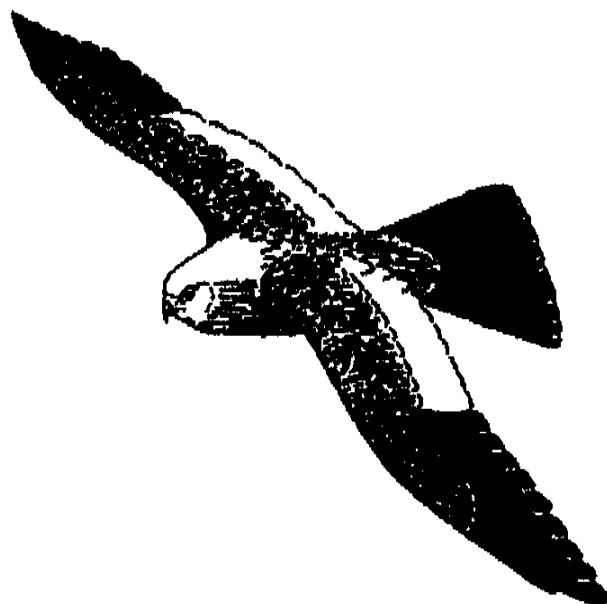


# MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 49, Number 2

September 2004



*Ictinia mississippiensis*

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## **MOS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

CO-PRESIDENTS: Margaret Copeland and Marion Schiefer  
VICE-PRESIDENT: Carl Smith  
SECRETARY: Francis Henne  
TREASURER: Jan Dubuisson  
PAST PRESIDENT: Shannon Knight  
MISSISSIPPI KITE EDITOR: Mark Woodrey  
MOS NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Gene and Shannon Knight

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Members: Charles Delmas, Gene Knight, Philip Barbour, Paul Hamel  
TUCKER AWARD: Gene Knight, Nona Herbert, Gerry Morgan  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Tish Galbraith (Chair), Elsie Croft, Larry Smith

## **REPRESENTATIVES TO SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

MISSISSIPPI WILDLIFE FEDERATION: Mary Stevens  
NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT: Marion Schiefer  
AMERICAN BIRDS: Terence Schiefer  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAYS: Mary Stevens  
MOS COLONIAL WATERBIRD COUNT COORDINATOR: Mary Stevens

## **MISSISSIPPI BIRD INFORMATION**

GULF COAST HOTLINE: 228.539.0249 OR [eaglesi@bellsouth.net](mailto:eaglesi@bellsouth.net)  
ONLINE: [MISSBIRD@olemiss.edu](mailto:MISSBIRD@olemiss.edu) AND [www.msstate.edu/org/mos](http://www.msstate.edu/org/mos)

## **ATTENTION ALL MOS MEMBERS!**

**Dues are payable in January of each year. Send check and registration form on back of newsletter to: Jan Dubuisson, 22410 Glad Acres, Pass Christian, MS 39571.**



**MOS'ers at Seaman Rd. Sewage Lagoon- 28 February 2004**

## PRESIDENTS' CORNER

By Margaret Copeland  
M.O.S. Co-President

There is a time for all things . . . and as our term draws to a close. . .

Thanks are in order for your contributions during the past two years to help MOS. We thank you for being a member and paying your dues. We especially thank those who have made an extra contribution to the treasury to allow MOS to continue to operate in the "black" rather than the red! There are so many who have contributed time and effort, especially the board members (see list elsewhere in the newsletter) as you quietly and efficiently did your jobs! Then there are members who helped with the meetings and made each a memorable event, in both birding and sustaining friendships.

While we hesitate to list and you know we'll miss someone we especially appreciate our oldest (in length of membership) MOS states persons: Ed Alexander, Nona and J.C. Herbert, and Marvin Davis for their work through the years. We appreciate Gene and Shannon Knight's newsletter efforts as well as Mark Woodrey's Kites. We always need to recognize the marvelous job Jan Dubuisson does as our long-serving Treasurer. Frances Henne kept us straight with her minutes and friendly support. VP Carl Smith stands ready to serve MOS as its new president having served on the board for the last two years. He has paid his dues well serving with all the "women" the past two years! He is tested and tried and true!

A special thanks to those who have worked helping with the meetings and other activities: Carl Smith, Jenny Thompson, Steve Dinsmore, Bill and Dottie McGehee, Mary Stevens, Jan Dubuisson, Gerry Morgan, and others, and all of our field trip leaders.

We also thank the Records Committee, with Terry Schiefer as chairperson, for continuing to persevere in the review of current and past bird records and keeping our checklist up-to-date. Special thanks to Gene Knight for compiling several of the annual Birds around the State to be published in the Kite. And we thank all of you who have sent in all those records!

MOS now has a website thanks to Terry Schiefer and Steve Dinsmore (see separate article). This site will offer current info and help us all keep connected.

We hope to see you at the fall meeting at Strawberry Plains near Holly Springs. This National Audubon Society center offers Mississippians unique, education/conservation activities while enjoying the outdoors. Native plant gardens, an antebellum home, 2700 acres of land SPAC offers each person who comes an unforgettable experience. See the meeting information for further details.

While our term is coming to an end, our service will continue. For just as migration continues unabated, so we hope MOS will prosper and grow. MOS will with each member's contribution and support!

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Jay Mengel  
Irene Pierce  
Eric S. Richardson

Western Foundation of  
Vertebrate Zoology

## RECAP OF THE SPRING FEBRUARY 27-29 MEETING

By Frances Henne, Secretary

The 2004 MOS spring meeting was held at the Seashore United Methodist Assembly in Biloxi, Mississippi, February 27, 28, and 29 with approximately 65 people registered and in attendance. Friday night supper was served to members at the Assembly in the cafeteria. At the beginning of the program in Casey Hall, there was a book signing for the new book Guide to Birding Coastal Mississippi, with co-authors Judy Toups and Jerry Bird and also cover artist Alison Henry there to autograph books purchased by MOS members. The other co-author, Stacy Peterson, was not able to be there. The book was being sold as a fundraiser for the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society.

Co-Presidents Marion Schiefer and Margaret Copeland welcomed all the members and visitors and introduced several new members who were attending their first MOS meeting. Marion announced that the Nominating Committee to seek officers for the next two years would be Tish Galbraith, Chair, Elsie Croft, and Larry Smith, and that anyone who wanted to suggest someone for an office should see one of the committee members after the meeting that night or the next day.

Field trips planned for Saturday were described by Gerry Morgan, Jan Dubuisson, and Charley Delmas. One group was to concentrate on visiting some of the wintering hummingbird spots and along the beaches, while others were to meet at the Seaman's Lagoon and break into smaller groups there. Coastal members were very generous in leading these trips and opening their private gardens for members to visit.

After the field trip discussion, the program for the evening was "Gardening for Winter Hummingbirds" presented by Gerry Morgan with help from Jan Dubuisson.

On Saturday evening, the group met at the Casey Center once again. Before the formal meeting began, Gene Knight announced that the Records Committee would be publishing a new checklist before long and that he was selling the current checklists at a reduced price. So the group took time to let Gene sell the checklists to everyone who was interested. Then the meeting was called to order by Co-President Marion Schiefer. She announced that Mark Woodrey, the Mississippi Kite editor, had been able to get four issues published and that they would be distributed after the meeting that evening. The printers at MSU were able to publish the issues at a much lower price than Mark had been able to find elsewhere. Marion thanked Mark for his work in getting the issues done and thanked the many members who had made special donations toward the publishing of the Kites and the newsletters.

Co-President Margaret Copeland stated that the fall MOS meeting would be held September 24-26 in Holly Springs in conjunction with the Strawberry Plains Audubon Center near there.

The species check and count for Friday and Saturday sightings in the coastal counties was conducted by Gene Knight, and a total of 154 species had been either seen or heard. Field trips for Sunday morning were discussed, and several were interested in going back to the Seaman's Rd. Lagoon to look for the Cave Swallow that had been seen there earlier that day.

Marion then asked if there was any other business or announcements. Gene Knight took email addresses for those members wanting to receive their newsletters by email.

Mark Woodrey then introduced the featured speaker for the meeting, Dr. Frank Moore, Professor and Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Southern Mississippi and a noted ornithologist, who talked to the group on the subject of "Stopover Ecology of Landbird Migrants: Finding a Safe Place to Land." A question and answer period followed his program, and then the meeting was adjourned. Marion reminded everyone that Judy Toups would be at the front once again to sell and autograph the new coast birding book.

**Species List**  
**MOS Meeting- Biloxi, MS - February 27-29, 2004**

Ross' Goose	Sandhill Crane	N. Rough-winged Swallow
Canada Goose	Black-bellied Plover	Cave Swallow
Gadwall	Snowy Plover	Barn Swallow
Mallard	Semipalmated Plover	Blue Jay
Mottled Duck	Piping Plover	A. Crow
Blue-winged Teal	Killdeer	Fish Crow
N. Shoveler	A. Oystercatcher	Carolina Chickadee
Green-winged Teal	Black-necked Stilt	Tufted Titmouse
Ring-necked Duck	Greater Yellowlegs	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Greater Scaup	Lesser Yellowlegs	Carolina wren
Lesser Scaup	Willet	House Wren
Surf Scoter	Spotted Sandpiper	Sedge Wren
Long-tailed Duck	Marbled Godwit	Marsh Wren
Bufflehead	Ruddy Turnstone	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Red-breasted Merganser	Sanderling	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Ruddy Duck	Least Sandpiper	E. Bluebird
C. Loon	Dunlin	Hermit Thrush
Pied-billed Grebe	Stilt Sandpiper	A. Robin
Horned Grebe	Short-billed Dowitcher	Gray Catbird
Eared Grebe	Long-billed Dowitcher	N. Mockingbird
N. Gannet	Wilson's Snipe	Brown Thrasher
A. White Pelican	Laughing Gull	E. Starling
Brown Pelican	Bonaparte's Gull	A. Pipit
Double-crested Cormorant	Ring-billed Gull	Cedar Waxwing
A. Bittern	Herring Gull	Orange-crowned Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Caspian Tern	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Egret	Royal Tern	Yellow-throated Warbler
Snowy Egret	Forster's Tern	Pine Warbler
Little Blue Heron	Black Skimmer	Palm Warbler
Tricolored Heron	Rock Pigeon	C. Yellowthroat
Reddish Egret	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Western Tanager
Cattle Egret	White-winged Dove	E. Towhee
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Mourning Dove	Chipping Sparrow
White Ibis	Barred Owl	Vesper Sparrow
Black Vulture	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	Savannah Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Henslow's Sparrow
Osprey	Black-chinned Hummingbird	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Swallow-tailed Kite	Calliope Hummingbird	Seaside Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Rufous Hummingbird	Song Sparrow
N. Harrier	Allen's Hummingbird	Swamp Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Belted Kingfisher	White-throated Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Red-headed Woodpecker	White-crowned Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-bellied Woodpecker	N. Cardinal
Red-tailed Hawk	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Red-winged Blackbird
A. Kestrel	Downy Woodpecker	E. Meadowlark
Merlin	N. Flicker	C. Grackle
Clapper Rail	Pileated Woodpecker	Boat-tailed Grackle
King Rail	E. Phoebe	Brown-headed Cowbird
Virginia Rail	Loggerhead Shrike	Baltimore Oriole
Sora	White-eyed Vireo	House Finch
C. Moorhen	Purple Martin	A. Goldfinch
A. Coot	Tree Swallow	House Sparrow

Total species: 155

## BACKYARD BIRD BANDING

By G. Edward Alexander, Jr.

I have been engaged in a bird-banding project since 1983, initially operating with a sub-permit under the Master Permit of Dr. Jerome Jackson of Mississippi State University until his recent retirement in 2000. With his retirement, a Master Permit 22996 was issued to me to permit me to continue my banding project. When I started banding, a definitive project had to be identified and undertaken. My project was, and continues to be, "The Study of the Migration of Wood Warblers in Western Mississippi."

I band only in my backyard presently located at 346 S. Gamwyn Drive, Greenville, MS. During my first 10 years I banded at my home, 930 S. Washington in Greenville. These homes are located less than 1 mile apart. My present neighborhood, as was my initial one, is an old neighborhood with large, mature hardwood trees with adequate shrubbery around the yard. With the exception of maintaining feeders near the house, no other attractions were placed in the yard.

I band using three mist nets, each of which is 12 meters long and 2.6 meters high. The nets are made of very thin black nylon material with 30 mm (1 1/4") mesh, very much like a badminton net. The nets have five heavier horizontal lines which create "shelves" in the netting so when the birds fly into the nets they fall into the shelves (or folds).

I band from 1 March through 31 May in the Spring, and from Labor Day through Thanksgiving in the Fall. When the nets are up, it is important to check them about every thirty minutes. This assures that the birds are removed fairly quickly, and also guards against predation by the neighborhood cats.

When a bird is caught, it is removed from the net and identified. It is then either banded or released. The cardinal rule of banding is: "never band a bird that is not POSITIVELY identified." You would be surprised how it is sometimes more difficult to identify a bird in the hand than a bird in the field. I only band birds that require from "0" size to "1A" size. This means that I band all birds from a Cardinal, in size, down to, but not including hummingbirds. After the bird is banded, the sex and age is determined if possible. Its sex is determined by certain physical characteristics, such as the presence of a brood patch, cloacal protuberance, wing length, or, of course, plumage.

Its age is usually listed as "HY" (hatching year), or "AHY" (after hatching year). Almost all birds banded in the Spring are "after hatching year" birds because most were hatched before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the present year, whereas some birds banded in the Fall were hatched during the current year, and were thus "hatching year birds." The "hatching years" are separated from the matures by plumage and other physical characteristics, but the determination is sometimes difficult. If I am not sure, I classify the bird as "U" (unknown). The wing chord and tail length are then measured, and finally the bird is weighed. The bird is sometimes photographed, if conditions permit, using a macro lens on my camera to permit a close-up photograph while holding the bird in the hand. I use ISO/400 film, or faster, because the birds are often very nervous and flutter their wings frequently. My banding results are finally reported by season to the Bird Banding Laboratory of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For the past ten years I have logged 6,349.0 mist net hours in the Spring, and 4,803.7 hours in the Fall. Most banders band for more hours, and thus band more birds than I do. The tables on the following pages are a result of my banding activities from 1993-2002, as well as my former activities from 1983-1992.

**BIRDS NETTED/BANDED--1983-2002**

<b>WARBLER SPECIES</b>	<b>1983-1992</b>			<b>1993-2002</b>		
	<b>930 S. WASHINGTON</b>			<b>346 S. GAMWYN</b>		
	<b>NOS. BANDED</b>			<b>NOS. BANDED</b>		
	<b>SPRING-FALL</b>			<b>SPRING-FALL</b>		
Blue-winged Warbler	0	-	0	2	-	0
Tennessee Warbler	12	-	1	0	-	0
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	-	0	0	-	0
Nashville Warbler	0	-	0	1	-	0
N. Parula	1	-	1	0	-	0
Chestnut-sided Warbler	0	-	0	3	-	1
Magnolia Warbler	20	-	1	15	-	3
Yellow-rumped Warbler	187	-	1	12	-	0
Black-throated Green Warbler	0	-	0	0	-	8
Prairie Warbler	1	-	0	0	-	0
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	-	0	0	-	0
Black-and-white Warbler	1	-	1	1	-	3
A. Redstart	1	-	0	4	-	1
Worm-eating Warbler	4	-	0	0	-	0
Ovenbird	52	-	2	11	-	1
N. Waterthrush	0	-	0	1	-	0
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	-	0	1	-	0
Kentucky Warbler	35	-	2	11	-	0
Mourning Warbler	1	-	0	0	-	0
C. Yellowthroat	20	-	0	7	-	1
Hooded Warbler	21	-	0	15	-	1
Wilson's Warbler	2	-	0	2	-	1
Canada Warbler	15	-	0	7	-	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	10	-	1	11	-	3
<b>NON -WARBLER SPECIES</b>						
Whip-poor-will	1	-	0	0	-	0
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5	-	1	0	-	7
Downy Woodpecker	2	-	1	0	-	0
Hairy Woodpecker	0	-	0	1	-	0
E. Wood Pewee	1	-	0	0	-	5
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	0	-	3	0	-	1
Acadian Flycatcher	6	-	1	12	-	1
Traill's Flycatcher	0	-	0	3	-	0
Least Flycatcher	0	-	0	3	-	1
E. Phoebe	1	-	0	0	-	0
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	-	0	7	-	0
White-eyed Vireo	19	-	1	11	-	8
Blue-headed Vireo	1	-	0	1	-	0
Philadelphia Vireo	0	-	0	1	-	0
Red-eyed Vireo	1	-	3	4	-	3
Carolina Chickadee	6	-	2	5	-	8
Tufted Titmouse	15	-	10	11	-	5
Brown Creeper	0	-	0	2	-	0
Carolina Wren	11	-	14	15	-	11

House Wren	5	-	0	4	-	1
Winter Wren	4	-	3	3	-	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	-	0	1	-	0
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	29	-	12	6	-	9
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	-	0	0	-	0
Veery	28	-	2	7	-	0
Gray-cheeked Thrush	15	-	0	8	-	0
Swainson's Thrush	27	-	2	19	-	5
Hermit Thrush	7	-	1	4	-	4
Wood Thrush	37	-	1	18	-	0
Gray Catbird	19	-	4	37	-	9
Cedar Waxwing	10	-	0	1	-	0
Summer Tanager	1	-	0	2	-	2
E. Towhee	5	-	0	2	-	0
Chipping Sparrow	0	-	0	8	-	0
Field Sparrow	0	-	0	5	-	1
Fox Sparrow	1	-	0	0	-	0
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	-	0	4	-	0
Swamp Sparrow	2	-	0	3	-	0
White-throated Sparrow	323	-	59	308	-	38
Dark-eyed Junco	2	-	0	14	-	3
N. Cardinal	89	-	45	55	-	53
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	-	0	9	-	0
Indigo Bunting	1	-	0	15	-	0
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	-	0	0	-	2
House Finch	3	-	0	60	-	3
A. Goldfinch	25	-	0	74	-	0

**Interesting Birds Netted but not Banded because of size**

1983-1992: Sharp-shinned Hawk -1  
 1993-2002: Cooper's Hawk - 2  
 Cooper's Hawk - 1  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird -9  
 E. Screech-Owl - 2  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 15

**Other Notes:**

1983-1992: N. Cardinal (Male)- re-netted several times over the years--last time--at least 9 years old

1993-2002: Tufted Titmouse: one bird re-netted after 7 years

White-throated Sparrows: On 7 occasions birds returned to our yard after spending the summer in Canada, according to the range maps.

House Finches: Banded 42 during Spring of 1996 at which the time birds acquired the House Finch "Eye" Disease. Had no more House Finches until 2 visits in the Fall of 2001; and 3 visits in the Fall of 2002.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Quantities have decreased 94 % during the last 14 years



*Cecil Kersting, long time MOS member, of Metairie, LA and Wakefield, RI, relates the following account of his fabulous birding trip to New Caledonia in the South Pacific in search of rare birds, especially the Kagu. Cecil is a retired geologist with Mobil Oil. He has observed birds on every continent and approximately sixty countries. We always enjoy reading about his wonderful trips!*

## **NEW CALEDONIA A Quest for the Kagu**

**By Cecil Kersting**

After a trans-Pacific flight of about twenty-three and one half hours total flying time and the loss of a day due to the International Dateline, Noumea, New Caledonia was reached. New Caledonia is an island about 1,000 miles off the NE coast of Australia in the South Pacific. It is South of the Solomons and below the Equator so that an August trip is in early spring there.

New Caledonia was discovered by Captain Cook but was not claimed. Subsequently, the French claimed it and used it as a penal colony in the early days. During WW II over one million US troops passed through New Caledonia. It is a beautiful island about 240 by 40 miles in size with many unique trees, shrubs, plants, and animals including the world's largest gecko measuring 20 inches. There seem to be no stinging insects or thorny vegetation to annoy one. A lot of the primary forest has been cut and nickel is still being mined in quantity.

Noumea is the capital and largest town. The population of New Caledonia is only 200,000. The towns are nice, the food is good, and the beaches are superb and uncluttered. The rural roads are good and also unspoiled by development.

It was the unique birds I had come to see. Birds like the Cloven-feathered Dove and the large dark Imperial Pigeon inhabit the forests. Others with names like Myxomela, Shrikebill, Triller and Whistler make up part of the list of 20 kinds of birds found only on New Caledonia.

The Kagu was a must see bird. It has no living relatives and only a few hundred live on New Caledonia. The bird is about knee high, silvery-bluish gray with a large three inch red beak, piercing red eyes, and red legs and feet. It has beautiful wings which it uses only for display. It walks along the forest floor foraging for grubs and worms under the leaf litter.

We saw and heard this marvelous bird on our first day out in the park forest. On the last day, a week later, the grand finale involved locating the Kagu that was radio-tagged in 1987. He was in the forest quite far upslope away from any trail, so I opted to remain behind. "Cocoq" was located and by offering him grubs and quietly calling, he followed the group downhill about 400 yards to my location. The ranger gave me grubs which I offered to the bird. He very gently took them from my hand. What a fantastic experience to hand feed one of the world's rarest birds! Time to leave the Kagu and depart from New Caledonia for the long flight back to the United States came all too quickly.

### YOUNG "BIOLOGIST" TO SPEAK AT MOS MEETING

We are delighted to have Heather Smith, a student at St. Andrews Episcopal School in Jackson, to speak to MOS during our fall meeting at Holly Springs. Heather and a group of fellow students have been studying Wood Storks, their feeding habits, and their preferred habitat along the levees of the Mississippi River around Warren County. Heather is only fourteen, but she is already well on her way to becoming a research biologist with her studies of Wood Storks and other wildlife. Heather is a member of the North American Native Fishes Association and has been giving natural history programs for schools and church groups for the past five years. She raises her own live specimens, mostly reptiles and fish, for inclusion in her educational programs to school groups. She has presented her research at symposiums of the Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Association, seminars at the Corps of Engineers, and programs for Tara's Cork and Stork festival and the Naturalist Lecture Series at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. Last year she was honored as the winner of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation Youth Conservationist of the Year Award.

Heather's program for MOS will be entitled "The In-Seine Pleasures of Puddle-Jumping: Describing Life in Flood Plain Pools." She will report on her experiences with alligators, aquatic snakes, the endangered Wood Stork, and the legendary Alligator Gar in these flood plain pools. Though they are small, frequently temporary habitats, they provide critical nursery and feeding grounds for many kinds of wildlife; and Heather will explain why and how these important habitats should be restored for the benefit of Mississippi's wildlife populations.

### JEROME A. JACKSON RECEIVES CHANDLER ROBBINS AWARD

Quoting from the August 2004 issue of BIRDER'S WORLD Magazine, p. 14:

*Jerome A. Jackson received the American Birding Association's Chandler Robbins Award at this year's ABA Convention. The award is given to those who make significant contributions to birder education and bird conservation. The ABA commended Jackson for his "regular contributions to BIRDER'S WORLD and other popular outlets."*

Jerry's book, IN SEARCH OF THE IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER, will be on bookstore shelves this month.

**MOS FALL MEETING SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2004**  
**STRAWBERRY PLAINS AUDUBON CENTER, HOLLY SPRINGS**

Fall migration in the hills of north Mississippi, plus the added attraction of Strawberry Plains Audubon Center, offers MOS members and visitors a chance to visit the flagship National Audubon Society Education Center located 3 miles north of Holly Springs on a 2700-acre former cotton plantation. For the past five years, NAS staff and volunteers have been working to restore the land to a natural ecosystem to be used for education purposes--conservation, historical, etc., as avenues have opened.

There are many easy walking trails for birding opportunities. There are garden and window birding for those who do not want to venture onto the trails and fields. There can be some birding by car as some surrounding roads will be part of the day. Mississippi State University has a working cattle/dairy farm that adjoins SP, so their open fields and feed lots offer varieties of hawk and sparrow habitat. SP itself has fields, some forests, small ponds, and larger bodies of water on the east side. The headwaters of Coldwater Creek are located on the east. Therefore, depending on your planned level of activity, bring appropriate boots if you are going into the "wet areas." We will be developing a fall list for SP, so their birds should be kept separate. Maps, directions, etc., will be available Friday night. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at SP on Saturday; we'll arrange a tour of the antebellum home and the gardens after lunch for those who are interested. Others may want to venture to Sardis Lake, the Holly Springs National Forest, etc.

Sunday morning we'll bird at Wall Doxey State Park (7 miles south of Holly Springs on Highway 7) similar habitat (minus the fields) a place that folks like to bird during fall migration.

Friday and Saturday night meetings will be at Annie's Restaurant on Highway 7, two blocks north of the main square in Holly Springs. Registration fees cover the Friday night hors d'oeuvres and the entrance fee to Strawberry Plains. Saturday night's dinner is \$15.

Accommodations are available at Hampton Inn on Highway 7 in Holly Springs (662-252-5444) for \$69 plus tax per night, including a deluxe continental breakfast from 6:00 to 10:00 a.m. Please call Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and ask for Tania or Jeff in order to get the MOS rate. The Days Inn also has rooms available for \$65.40, including tax (662-252-1120).

**MOS WEEKEND SCHEDULE:**

**FRIDAY EVENING - September 24**

- 6:00 p.m. Annie's Restaurant - Light hors d'oeuvres and social hour
- 7:00 p.m. Strawberry Plains information and field trip plans
- 8:00 p.m. Board meeting will follow the program

**SATURDAY - September 25**

- 7:00 a.m. Field trips to Strawberry Plains - meet in parking lot of Hampton Inn
- 12:00 Noon Lunch at Strawberry Plains - Bring your own sack lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Tour of Davis House and gardens
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner at Annie's Restaurant
- 7:15 p.m. Business Meeting and Program - Annie's Restaurant New officers Board meeting will follow the program (if needed)

**SUNDAY - September 26**

- 7:30 a.m. Field trips around Wall Doxey State Park leave from the large parking lot close to the lake at the park

## **MOS NOW HAS A WEB SITE!!**

Check out MOS' new web site at [www.msstate.edu/org/mos](http://www.msstate.edu/org/mos). We want to thank MSU for being willing to host the web site and Terry Schiefer for working with MSU staff to get the proper permissions and the domain name. The main purposes of the site will be to keep MOS members informed about MOS activities, to report information about Mississippi birds and birders, and to give others a chance to learn a little about MOS.

We appreciate Stephen Dinsmore being willing to take on the job of being the site's web master. He's doing an excellent job! If you have any rare bird report or photograph that you would like to see posted to the web site, you can contact Steve at [sdinsmore@cfr.msstate.edu](mailto:sdinsmore@cfr.msstate.edu), 662-325-8141, or Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mississippi State University, Box 9690, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

## **MISSISSIPPI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE VACANCY**

Two positions on the Mississippi Bird Records Committee will become vacant this year with the expiration of the terms of two of the committee's current members. The committee is looking for two new members to fill these vacancies. Prospective members should have a demonstrated expertise in field identification and be knowledgeable about the birds of Mississippi and the surrounding region. Responsibilities of members include reviewing records of birds that are on the Mississippi Review List and attending the committee's annual meeting. Committee members serve a three-year term. Most business will be conducted by mail.

If you are interested in serving on the committee or have questions about the responsibilities involved, *please contact Terry Schiefer (P.O. Box 9775, Mississippi State, MS 39762; 662-324-3748(H) or 662-325-2989(W); [tschiefer@entomology.msstate.edu](mailto:tschiefer@entomology.msstate.edu)).*

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Tish Galbraith (Chair), Elsie Croft, and Larry Smith served as the Nominating Committee to contact MOS members to serve as officers for the next two years. As a result of their meetings and contacts, they recommend the following MOS members to fill the listed positions at the election to be held at the fall meeting: President- Carl Smith; Vice President- Bill McGehee; Secretary- Jenny Thompson; Treasurer- Jan Dubuisson.

**MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
August 2003 through January 2004**

**INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT**

**INCOME**

Dues	\$1,480.00
Interest	184.04
Donations	163.00
Sales:	
T-shirts	75.00
Patches	<u>5.00</u>

**TOTAL INCOME** \$1,907.04

**EXPENSES**

Depreciation	\$ 29.10
Newsletter - One Issue	250.50
Summer Meeting Expenses	(95.63)
Supplies	<u>19.40</u>

**TOTAL EXPENSES** \$203.37

**NET PROFIT** **\$1,703.67**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**ASSETS**

Checking Account	\$ 6,007.68
Savings Account	2,357.47
Certificate of Deposit	2,235.28
Coffey Endowment	15,000.00
Records Storage Files	440.60
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(\$294.28)</u>

**TOTAL ASSETS** \$25,746.75

**LIABILITIES**

Meeting Expenses Payable	(\$780.00)
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES** (\$780.00)

**NET WORTH** **\$24,966.75**

**MOS FALL 2004 MEETING - REGISTRATION FORM**

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

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

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Person(s):

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

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

Registration/Friday evening: \$15.00 per person    \_\_\_ Person(s) X \$ 15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Additional contribution to help with publications (\$5.00 per person suggested)    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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 September 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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: Jan 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 Hwy 9W  
Oxford, MS 38655**

**Check your expiration date >>>>>>**