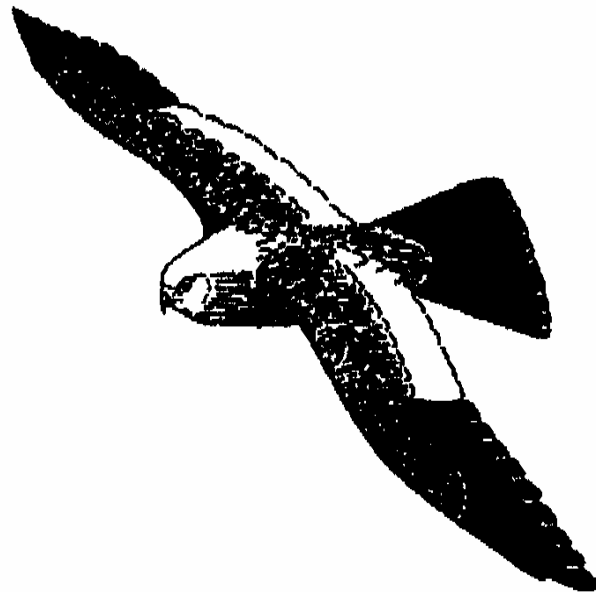


MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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MISSISSIPPI BIRD INFORMATION

GULF COAST HOTLINE: 228.539.0249 OR eaglesi@bellsouth.net
ONLINE: MISSBIRD@olemiss.edu AND www.msstate.edu/org/mos

DUES ATTENTION ALL MOS MEMBERS! DUES

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.

ATTENTION ALL MOS MEMBERS

In order to cut down on our printing and mailing costs of the Newsletter, we are asking any of you who would be willing to receive your Newsletter by e-mail to please contact us at:

gsknight@dixie-net.com

Thanks for your help.

President's Corner
By Carl Smith
MOS President

It is time once again to experience great winter birding in the Mississippi Delta. Unusual species have been turning up this season, perhaps due to the recent extreme weather events. Two recent sightings in the state have been of a late Eastern Kingbird and a late Summer Tanager, both in December.

Birding the Delta in winter affords us the chance to find a great range of species. We will have the opportunity to bird a great research site in Sharkey County. It is a location where for the past five years I have been documenting the winter occurrences of all bird species present. Species occurring there recently have included Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Bobwhite, American Woodcock, Palm Warbler, thousands of Snow Geese flying overhead and many other species.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.
See you at Leroy Percy!

RECAP OF THE AUGUST 2005 MEETING
By Dianne Patterson, Secretary

The MOS meeting was held August 19-21 at Natchez, Mississippi. Dr. Clinton W. Jeske gave us a lot of information Friday night at the downtown Natchez Convention Center. His research started in the spring of 2001 and continues through present date for the U. S. Geological Survey, National Wetlands Research, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services. His reports were determined from aerial surveys for species, habitat, and numbers of wading birds and colonies in Louisiana. His survey from year to year shows some of the nesting islands no longer exist on the coast. He stated how important the coastal islands were for the water birds to breed and nest. Another concern was brackish waters losing areas in our present environment.

After the presentation Mary Stevens had door prizes for lucky members that were selected by nametag drawings.

Saturday morning field trips for St. Catherine Creek left at 7:00 a.m. We had good birding, but it was very hot and dry.

Saturday afternoon we met at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians for good food and a short business meeting. Terry Schiefer conducted the species count for August 19 & 20 for a total of 100 species.

We concluded our evening with a late trip back to St. Catherine's to watch the birds fly in to roost for the night.

Welcome New Members

David Buege- Jackson
Max & Willa Sanders- Kosciusko

Troy Robinson- McClean, VA
Nick Winstead- Jackson

Species List
Fall MOS Meeting-St. Catherine Creek NWR
August 19-21, 2005

Canada Goose	Willet	Cliff Swallow
Wood Duck	Spotted Sandpiper	Barn Swallow
Gadwall	Least Sandpiper	Carolina Chickadee
Blue-winged Teal	Baird's Sandpiper	Tufted Titmouse
Neotropic Cormorant	Pectoral Sandpiper	Carolina Wren
Double-crested Cormorant	Stilt Sandpiper	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Anhinga	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Eastern Bluebird
Great Blue Heron	Long-billed Dowitcher	Northern Mockingbird
Great Egret	Wilson's Phalarope	Brown Thrasher
Snowy Egret	Least Tern	European Starling
Little Blue Heron	Rock Pigeon	Northern Parula
Tricolored Heron	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Yellow Warbler
Cattle Egret	Mourning Dove	Yellow-throated Warbler
Green Heron	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Pine Warbler
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Barred Owl	American Redstart
White Ibis	Chimney Swift	Prothonotary Warbler
Glossy Ibis	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Swainson's Warbler
White-faced Ibis	Belted Kingfisher	Common Yellowthroat
Roseate Spoonbill	Red-headed Woodpecker	Hooded Warbler
Wood Stork	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Yellow-breasted Chat
Black Vulture	Downy Woodpecker	Summer Tanager
Turkey Vulture	Hairy Woodpecker	Eastern Towhee
Mississippi Kite	Pileated Woodpecker	Northern Cardinal
Red-shouldered Hawk	E. Wood-Pewee	Blue Grosbeak
Broad-winged Hawk	Acadian Flycatcher	Indigo Bunting
Red-tailed Hawk	E. Kingbird	Painted Bunting
American Coot	Loggerhead Shrike	Red-winged Blackbird
Black-bellied Plover	White-eyed Vireo	Common Grackle
American Golden Plover	Yellow-throated Vireo	Orchard Oriole
Semipalmated Plover	Red-eyed Vireo	Baltimore Oriole
Killdeer	Blue Jay	House Finch
Black-necked Stilt	American Crow	House Sparrow
Greater Yellowlegs	Fish Crow	
Lesser Yellowlegs	Tree Swallow	
Solitary Sandpiper	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Total Species:104

Submitting Articles For the MOS Newsletter

The MOS Newsletter is published biannually to inform members of upcoming meetings and birding events. The editors invite you to participate by submitting articles for possible publication in the newsletter. Some suggestions for articles might be:

*Birding trips—in-state, out-of-state, or out-of-country

* Life bird experiences

*Bird locales

* Special birding events

*Any interesting story about birds or bird behavior

Please submit neatly handwritten or typed articles, not to exceed two single-spaced typed pages. You may contribute as many articles as you would like. Articles may be sent in any time of the year, but if you would like it to appear in a specific issue then it must be sent in on the following deadline dates.

Summer Issue - June 30

Spring Issue - December 31

Please e-mail or mail your articles to: Gene and Shannon Knight, 79 Hwy 9W, Oxford, MS 38655

662-236-2413

gsknight@dixie-net.com

A Tribute to
Dr. W. Marvin Davis

By Gene and Shannon Knight

We were all deeply shocked and saddened by the untimely death of Dr. W. Marvin Davis on October 27, 2005. Marvin was our mentor when we were initiated into birding back in 1984. He was the leader of the Oxford Bird Club then which met once a month and had monthly field trips. He introduced us to his great Barred Owl call on one of those trips. His great passion for birds and birding inspired us and many others to pursue knowledge and experience for improving our identification skills.

Marvin was professor emeritus with the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. He had been the longtime chairman of the Department of Pharmacology. Marvin contributed greatly to MOS, serving as a past President, a member of the Mississippi Bird Records Committee, and as the MOS Newsletter editor for some ten years. He initiated and was also the compiler for the Sardis and Grenada Christmas Bird Counts for approximately thirty-five years. Marvin was awarded the J. W. Tucker Award in 1971 for outstanding fieldwork in finding and documenting Mississippi's first Black-legged Kittiwake and Little Gull. Marvin has published numerous articles on birds and birding. He was the original listowner for Missbird. Marvin was a dedicated, respected, and loved birder and MOS member.

Marvin will be greatly missed by all. We especially will miss his frequent phone calls to inquire...."Anything new at the sod field?"....or telling us about a bird/birds he had recently seen. Marvin loved to share his knowledge of birds and birding, many times using humorous stories to make a point. We all extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Shirley; his son, Brian; his stepson, Gary; and his sister, Doris.

MOS KATRINA RELIEF EFFORT

By Gene and Shannon Knight

During and days right after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina we worried so about all our birding friends along the Gulf Coast and immediately inward. Within days following August 29 it was revealed that 71% of the MS residents were without electricity. Some 90,000 square miles in the southeast were without power and communication service. Katrina was the most destructive and costliest natural disaster in the history of the United States. Hurricane-force winds went all the way as far north as Laurel. Even here in Oxford we experienced 60 mile-an-hour winds.

In the days following, we began trying to locate our coastal friends through Missbird. We made a list of names and addresses of those MOSers who were displaced from the storm. Being interested also in what was happening in LA, we checked LABirds and found out that Van Remsen was also keeping a list of survivors and missing. Within a week of the storm Van was in the process of starting up a project with birding groups from other states to adopt LA birders who had lost their birding gear, books, etc. One of Van's contacts asked if MS birders might also need birding gear. At this point we contacted Van to suggest that we liked his idea of adopting birders and that we would also like to do this for MS. He was very receptive to having us on board.

The next step was getting the information out to birding groups around the country that might be interested in adopting MS birders. We also needed to get in touch with MS birders to see what their needs were. After several weeks Judy Toups was back on line and we contacted her for help in locating people and assessing their needs. Judy had a wealth of information about many of the birders on the coast. They were MOSers, MS Coast Audubon members, and the members of Judy's Bushwhackers. We e-mailed daily, and sometimes two or three times daily, pooling our information about birders and their needs. Through Judy we found out that a whopping 20 birders had only slabs left and another 15 had sustained major damage to their homes. Judy was our lifeline to information on the coast and we couldn't have done nearly as much without her help. Her e-mails also gave us insights into the daily struggles and depressing conditions going on at the time, along with the joyous sights of a migrating hummingbird or a returning cardinal.

Within weeks of Katrina we had several volunteer groups willing to adopt MS birders. By late September groups from Pennsylvania, Alabama, and Allen Stickley from Starkville had volunteered to adopt a needy coastal birder. A month later another group from PA volunteered their help. By the first of December we were finding out that we probably needed more birder groups to help out so we at that point solicited support from MOS. About this same time a group from Tennessee got on board with a recommendation from Van Remsen. Two-thirds of our adoptees are currently having their birding needs being taken care of by their adopting groups.

The appeal to MOS in November yielded donations totaling \$1,395.00 to date. Jackson Audubon pitched in to our effort by donating 5 copies of Bill Turcotte's BIRDS OF MISSISSIPPI as well as money. MOS has successfully adopted several birders and supplied them with over 20 birding books. We are working slowly but steadily on meeting the needs of all the adoptees on our list.

DONATIONS TO KATRINA RELIEF ARE STILL BEING ACCEPTED. SEND TO GENE AND SHANNON KNIGHT, 79 HWY 9W, OXFORD, MS 38655

..... **From the Gulf Coast ...**An update from Judy Toups

Desperation was the catalyst for what was to become “Operation Backyard Recovery.” On the day following the passage of Hurricane Katrina, southbound Ruby-throated Hummingbirds appeared in great numbers in all of the usual places. But natural food sources had been devastated and it was next to impossible to buy nectar feeders to replace those that had gone with the wind. A simple request to those outside the affected area brought forth some very generous support in the way of feeders, new and used, and shepherd’s hooks to hang them from.

A great many field guides to birds and other areas of natural history were also destroyed, and again, replacement books were on the way. It’s impossible to quote actual figures but let’s just say that we handed out hundreds upon hundreds of feeders (both nectar and seed feeders) and hangers, as well as books, over the course of the next couple of months.

Birdhouse Clinics followed; a perceived housing shortage for cavity-nesting species and the curbside availability of board fencing combined to make such clinics a huge success, not to mention a pleasant diversion from the reality around us.

An Arbor Day program involving four species of the most wanted trees is in the works, and, down the line, a flowering/fruiting/berry-bearing shrub/plant swap or sale is being organized.

More than \$2000 has been donated toward long-range habitat recovery.

Operation Backyard Recovery got the traction it needed from so many individuals and organizations that it’s impossible to list all without risking omission. But you know who you are. We are ever so grateful to you for giving us the ways and means to act upon our concerns for wildlife and habitat – that which links us all together.

MISSISSIPPI COAST AUDUBON SOCIETY
and
AUDUBON MISSISSIPPI/COASTAL PROJECTS

SPRING MEETING - FEBRUARY 24-26, 2006
LEROY PERCY STATE PARK

The 2006 “spring” meeting will be held at Leroy Percy State Park in the Delta area of the state the weekend of February 24-26. The park is located about 9 miles west of Hollandale on Hwy. 12 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 that the park staff will know how much food to prepare. The \$15.00 registration fee covers costs for light refreshments, the use of the meeting room on Friday night, and our speaker’s expenses. The Saturday night banquet fee, which includes a full meal and the use of the meeting room, is \$13.00 (tax and gratuity included). 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 10th**.

Our speaker for the Saturday evening banquet will be Scott G. Somershoe. Scott works with the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Vicksburg. His responsibilities there are assisting in designing, conducting, analyzing, and reporting on studies to assess breeding bird distribution, populations, demography, and habitat use in forests and wetlands in the Mississippi River Valley. Other duties include conducting bird counts, nest searching and monitoring, and banding birds. Scott received his B.S. degree in Marine and Environmental Biology from Millersville University, PA, in 1998 and his M.S. in Biology from Georgia Southern University in 2000. His many accomplishments/awards/publications are listed on his website at: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/somershoe.htm>.

ACCOMMODATIONS - There are a limited number of cabins available at the park. Also there are camping sites available. Contact the park for details and availability at 662-827-5436.

A block of rooms under the name of MOS have been reserved at the Best Western Regency Inn in Greenville (about 30 minutes away from the park). To make a reservation call 662-334-6900 and ask for the MOS rate of \$58.50. The hotel is located on Hwy. 82 east of Hwy. 1. A small block of rooms has been reserved also at the Cotton Country Inn in Hollandale. Call 662-827-2277 (\$30 for singles, \$35 for doubles).

Those 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 24

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Lodge dining room - Social hour - light refreshments provided
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Program and discussion of plans for field trips on Saturday
8:00 p.m.	Board meeting

SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 25

6:45 - 7:00 a.m.	Gather at Park Lodge parking lot for field trips to 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 - Scott Somershoe, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Vicksburg – “Birding, Banding, and Searching for Birds in Bottomland Hardwood Forests”

SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 26

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 FEBRUARY 2006 MEETING - REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ EMail: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Additional Person (s):

Name: _____ EMail: _____

Name: _____ EMail: _____

Registration	\$15.00 per person	___ Person (s) X	\$ 15.00 = \$ _____
Saturday Banquet	\$13.00 per person	___ Person (s) X	\$ 13.00 = \$ _____

_____ Please indicate number of people registered on this form that want to eat at the Park's buffet at noon on Sunday, February 26.

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 10.

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), \$15 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 >>>>>>