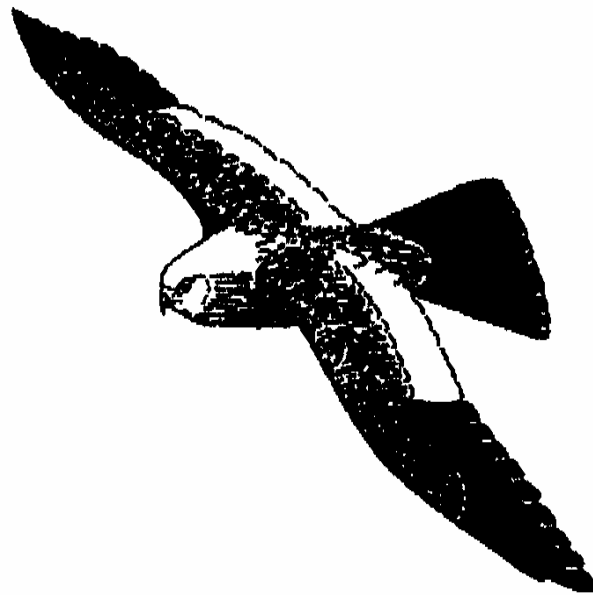


MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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.

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

I have greatly enjoyed the past two years serving as president for MOS. I have had a wonderful time birding with and getting to know so many of you in the process. I want to thank all of the MOS board members who always help make our MOS meetings so enjoyable. I wish the best to our future president and hope that he will find the experience as rewarding as I have. I look forward to birding with all of you again at our future meetings. It has truly been a pleasure.
Next stop Noxubee!

RECAP OF THE FEBRUARY 2006 MOS MEETING
By Dianne Patterson, Secretary

Scott Somershoe presented a very informative program about the census and survey of migrating songbirds at point counts in the Tensas River NWR and Vicksburg Military Park for the past two years. Scott visited the White River NWR in Arkansas where the sighting of the IBWP was reported. He did not see the IBWP but did find trees with evidence of fresh diggings like the IBWP creates looking for beetle larva.

Terry Schiefer conducted the species count for the weekend which came to 112.

PROPOSED REVISION TO MOS CONSTITUTION

When Jenny Thompson left Mississippi and resigned her position as Secretary for MOS last year, the MOS Board was uncertain about the procedure for replacing her and found nothing in the MOS Constitution or By-Laws about replacing any officer other than President. Therefore, the Board is suggesting that we revise the Constitution Article IV, Section 1 to include instructions about replacing officers who vacate their office prior to the end of the term. Below is Article IV, Section 1 as it currently reads, followed by the proposed revised version:

“Article IV - Officers

1. The elected officers of the Society shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. They shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting, and shall serve for a period of two years. They may be Re-elected.”

“Article IV - Officers

1. The elected officers of the Society shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. They shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting, and shall serve for a period of two years. They may be re-elected. If the office of President is vacated during the two-year term, the Vice-President shall automatically become President and complete the term. If one of the other offices is vacated before the end of the term, another member shall be appointed to complete the term by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.”

MOS members will vote on this proposed revision during the business session at the fall meeting.

Species List
Spring MOS Meeting- Leroy Percy State Park and Yazoo NWR
February 24-26, 2006

Greater White-fronted Goose	Killdeer	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Snow Goose	Lesser Yellowlegs	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Ross's Goose	Western Sandpiper	Eastern Bluebird
Canada Goose	Least Sandpiper	Hermit Thrush
Wood Duck	Dowitcher sp.	American Robin
Gadwall	Wilson's Snipe	Northern Mockingbird
American Wigeon	American Woodcock	Brown Thrasher
Mallard	Bonaparte's Gull	European Starling
Northern Shoveler	Ring-billed Gull	American Pipit
Northern Pintail	Forster's Tern	Cedar Waxwing
Green-winged Teal	Rock Pigeon	Orange-crowned Warbler
Canvasback	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Mourning Dove	Pine Warbler
Lesser Scaup	Common Ground-Dove	Common Yellowthroat
Bufflehead	Eastern Screech-Owl	Eastern Towhee
Hooded Merganser	Great Horned Owl	Chipping Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Barred Owl	Field Sparrow
Wild Turkey	Belted Kingfisher	Vesper Sparrow
Northern Bobwhite	Red-headed Woodpecker	Savannah Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Fox Sparrow
Horned Grebe	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Song Sparrow
American White Pelican	Downy Woodpecker	Swamp Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Hairy Woodpecker	White-throated Sparrow
Anhinga	Northern Flicker	White-crowned Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Dark-eyed Junco
Great Egret	Eastern Phoebe	Lapland Longspur
Snowy Egret	Loggerhead Shrike	Northern Cardinal
Tricolored Heron	Blue Jay	Red-winged Blackbird
Turkey Vulture	American Crow	Eastern Meadowlark
Osprey	Horned Lark	Rusty Blackbird
Bald Eagle	Purple Martin	Brewer's Blackbird
Northern Harrier	Carolina Chickadee	Common Grackle
Cooper's Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-shouldered Hawk	Brown Creeper	House Finch
Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Wren	American Goldfinch
American Kestrel	House Wren	House Sparrow
Common Moorhen	Winter Wren	
American Coot	Sedge Wren	Total Species: 112

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

The Effect Of Hurricane Katrina On the Breeding Population Of The Ansley Chenier
By Ned Boyajian

Since the late 1980's, I having been observing the bird life of the Ansley area in southwestern Hancock County, MS including monitoring the breeding species in the various habitats found there. This report concerns one of those habitats, the approximately 68 acres (28 ha) of woodland known as the Ansley Chenier.

I did not take formal breeding bird surveys. The information was collected informally and casually for my personal interest, no sophisticated sampling techniques were employed. The degree of coverage varied considerably from year to year and evidence of breeding was often based on no more than the repeated presence of a singing male in the same spot.

So it would be best to view the table as an accurate list of the species (and an approximation of the number of individuals) that were present through the breeding season at this location in a typical year prior to Katrina as compared to those present this year (2006) without undue regard as to whether all individuals were actually engaged in nesting.

Up until this year there were usually thirty to thirty-two presumptive breeding species annually and another 7 or 8 species that did not breed in the woodland but visited on a regular basis. Average number of nesting pairs was probably around 180. This year as a direct result of Katrina, only 13 species seemed to be on territories, totaling perhaps about 22 pairs. Visitors totaled 4. The tables below show these comparisons.

Did any category of birds suffer more than others? My initial impression was that permanent residents suffered more than summer residents. But the results do not bear this out. The ratio of the two is about the same before and after the storm. Hole nesters? Canopy gleaners? Certainly reasonable assumptions. But the simple fact is that my sample is far too tiny to substantiate such conclusions (I might add that two recent invaders into the residential parts of Ansley, Eurasian Collared Dove and House Finch, were completely wiped out.)

Did any birds benefit? Flocks of Common Grackles and European Starlings now forage regularly in the more torn up portions of the woodlands (and to an even greater extent in the surrounding open areas). Formerly only scattered individuals of these species were likely in any habitat at this season. I also suspect that the reduction of concealing cover could be benefiting cowbirds.

As an aside, several observers have commented on the fact that Great Crested Flycatchers seem particularly conspicuous everywhere on the coast this year. But this may simply be that they are being forced out into more open situations in their search for nest holes and at the same time, being larger and more aggressive than most other hole nesters, are usurping what sites are available. Mark LaSalle's observation of a pair attempting to take over a martin house is suggestive.

Well so what? What else might one expect after a storm of such magnitude? If in fact Katrina was "The Storm of the Century" (or even storm of the millennium) two things should be evident. One, a storm this size is going to make a terrible mess of things, and two, if such storms really occur as often as even every thousand years there must have been quite a few of them since the Cretaceous. So if things stabilized before why shouldn't they again? Perhaps not replication but surely a viable natural environment as rich as any preceding one.

In fact one could argue that by getting past the emotional trauma (which I admittedly am probably incapable of but another person might well be) we are in the position to witness and document a phenomenon unique to our experience.

Well the trouble with these arguments is that very likely a natural recovery will not be *allowed* to happen. As a columnist in our local paper put it "the developers are circling like sharks"

The ultimate tragedy of Katrina will be that the Mississippi coast will once more be inundated. This time in a flood of concrete and asphalt from which there will be no recovery. Even the few "protected" scraps like the Ansley preserve that might escape direct destruction will be so subjected to an overwhelming human population crush that they will soon be nothing more than sterile vacant lots viewed as convenient places for trash dumping and teenagers' carousals.

Presumptive Breeders	Typical Year	2006
	pre-Katrina	
Mourning Dove	7	3
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	1
Barn Owl	1	0
Great Horned Owl	1	0
Red-bellied Woodpecker	6	0
Downy Woodpecker	4	0
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	0
Great Crested Flycatcher	4	1
White-eyed Vireo	12	0
Yellow-throated Vireo	2	0
Red-eyed Vireo	6	0
Carolina Chickadee	10	0
Tufted Titmouse	7	0
Carolina Wren	12	0
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3	1
Wood Thrush	1	0
Northern Mockingbird	5	1
Brown Thrasher	8	3
Northern Parula	4	1
Pine Warbler	7	0
Common Yellowthroat	10	2
Hooded Warbler	4	0
Yellow-breasted Chat	5	0
Summer Tanager	3	1
Eastern Towhee	9	0
Northern Cardinal	12	3
Blue Grosbeak	3	0
Indigo Bunting	4	0
Painted Bunting	5	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	8	0
Orchard Oriole	8	2
	176	22
Visitors Present		
Pileated Woodpecker	Yes	No
Brown-headed Nuthatch	Yes	No
Eastern Bluebird	Yes	Yes
American Crow	Yes	No
Fish Crow	Yes	No
Loggerhead Shrike	Yes	No
European Starling	No	Yes
Red-winged Blackbird	Yes	Yes
Common Grackle	No	Yes
Bronzed Cowbird	Yes	No

NICK WINSTEAD TO SPEAK AT FALL MEETING

Nick Winstead, who is the State Ornithologist for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, will be our speaker at the fall meeting. Nick's office is at the Museum of Natural Science in Jackson. Nick is originally from Morton, Mississippi. He received his bachelor's degree in Wildlife Science/Ecology at MSU and then went to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville for his Masters in the same field of study. His Masters thesis concentrated on Least Bittern habitat use at Reelfoot Lake in northwest Tennessee.

After his Master's work was completed, Nick accepted a position as Wildlife Research Associate at LSU. As part of his work there, he conducted point counts and herp (reptiles and amphibians) surveys on various Wildlife Management Areas in Louisiana. He also worked on a project with Sandhill Cranes in southwest Louisiana, part of which included receiving training in Wisconsin with the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership.

Nick came back to Mississippi in February, 2005, and took the position of Data Manager for the Natural Heritage Program at the museum. When Jenny Thompson and her husband moved to Virginia last July, Nick got the opportunity to take on the job of State Ornithologist. For several months he had to continue also with the Natural Heritage Program work, but since a new Data Manager for that program was hired last January, he has been able to devote all of his time to his new position.

We're glad to have Nick back in Mississippi and look forward to hearing him speak at the fall meeting. He plans to talk to us about what we know and don't know about secretive marsh birds in Mississippi.

MOS WEB SITE UPDATE !!

Check out MOS' web site at 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 and thank Stephen Dinsmore for being the site's original web master. He did an excellent job! Now that Stephen has moved to Iowa, Terry Schiefer is the new web master. If you have any rare bird report or photograph that you would like to see posted to the web site, contact Terry at: 662-325-2989, tschiefer@entomology.msstate.edu, or Mississippi Entomological Museum, Box 9775, Mississippi State, MS 39762-9775

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Terry Schiefer (Chair), Shannon Knight, and Ruth Pullen 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- Bill McGehee; Vice President- Sarajane Smith ; Secretary- Francis Henne ; Treasurer- Jan Dubuisson.

FALL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1, 2006
STARKVILLE/NOXUBEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The fall meeting is being hosted by the Oktibbeha Audubon Society and MOS members in the Starkville-Columbus area. The Friday night meeting will be held in one of the meeting rooms at the Holiday Inn Express in Starkville (see directions below).

The Saturday evening banquet will be held at the Larry Box Conservation Center at Noxubee Refuge. Directions will be given at the Friday night meeting. Advance reservations will be required, because the banquet will be catered and we'll need to know the number attending about 2 weeks ahead of time. Please fill out the registration form on the last page and mail it, along with your registration and banquet fees, to Jan Dubuisson in time to reach her no later than September 14.

ACCOMMODATIONS - A block of rooms under the name of MOS have been reserved at the following hotel, but will be held only until September 10 (advance reservations are recommended because of limited availability and better rates):

Holiday Inn Express - 110-B Hwy. 12 West (behind Ruby Tuesday Restaurant) 662-324-0076

Rooms available: Double Queens - \$65 plus 9% tax, total of \$70.85

DIRECTIONS: Driving east on Hwy. 82 from Winona, take Hwy. 25 South exit, then Hwy. 12 exit. Go east on Hwy. 12 through several lights until you come to the intersection of Hwy. 12 and Old Hwy. 25/Louisville Street; then continue on Hwy. 12 east and watch for Ruby Tuesday Restaurant on your left. Hotel is behind Ruby Tuesday's. Driving west on Hwy. 82 from Columbus or Hwy. 45, take Hwy. 12 exit. Go south, then west on Hwy. 12 until you come to the intersection of Hwy. 12 and Jackson Street; then continue on Hwy. 12 west and watch for Ruby Tuesday's on your right. Coming from Jackson north on Hwy. 25, take the Hwy. 12 exit and continue with directions given above driving east on Hwy. 12.

FRIDAY EVENING - SEPTEMBER 29

6:30-8:00 p.m. Holiday Inn Express meeting room, Starkville (see directions above) - Social Hour - light refreshments - discussion of Saturday and Sunday field trips

8:00 p.m. Board meeting

SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 30

7:00 a.m. Field trips - All field trips will meet in the back parking lot of the Holiday Inn Express (there are no places to eat near the refuge, so bring your lunch or snacks)

6:30 p.m. Banquet - Larry Box Conservation Center - Environmental Education Center operated by Starkville School District and Noxubee NWR

7:30 p.m. Business Meeting and Species Tally
Speaker - Nick Winstead - "Secretive Marsh Birds in Mississippi"

SUNDAY - OCTOBER 1

7:30 a.m. Field trips - meet in the back parking lot of the Holiday Inn Express

MOS SEPTEMBER 2006 MEETING - REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Additional Person (s):

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ EMail: _____

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

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

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

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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

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

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 >>>>>>