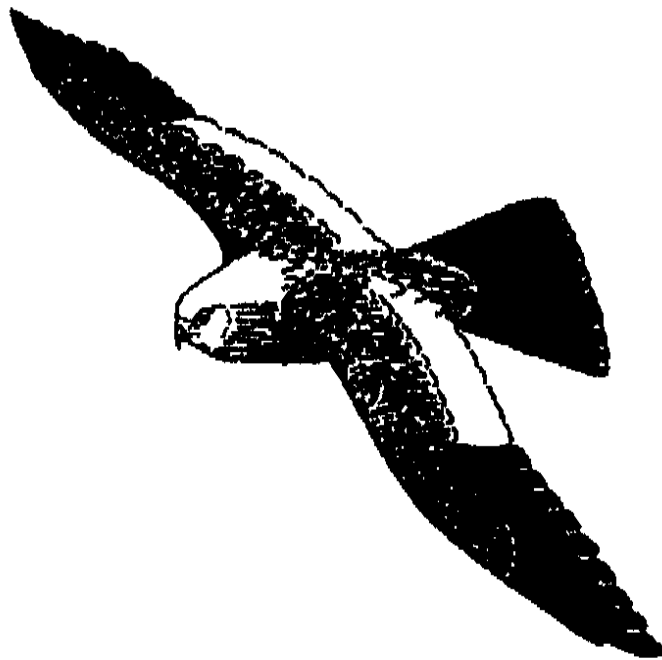


MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 52, Number 1

April 2007



Ictinia mississippiensis

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MOS COLONIAL WATERBIRD COUNT COORDINATOR: Mary Stevens

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 email to please contact us at:

gsknight@dixie-net.com

Thanks for your help.

A TRIBUTE TO
JUDITH A. TOUPS

By JoRee Pease

MOS lost part of its foundation on February 27, 2007 with the death of Judith Toups in Decatur, Alabama. She was an active member for many years, a past president, newsletter editor, and member of the records committee. In 1987 Judy received the J.W. Tucker Award for co-authoring "Birds and Birding on the Mississippi Coast". She was instrumental in recruiting many others to the ranks of active birding. There surely are few, if any, birders on the coast who were not taught by Judy and her influence is felt throughout the state.

Judy was born in Gloucester, Massachusetts, on November 30, 1930 and grew up on Cape Ann. In 1955 she married Jay Toups of Gulfport. Jay was in the Navy and Judy had six children while moving frequently as his career required. When Jay retired from the Navy in 1965 they settled in Gulfport.

Judy's interest in birds began when her parents gave her a bird feeder and she acquired a field guide. With nobody to teach her she studied on her own and became a nationally recognized expert. She wrote a column on birds for the Biloxi Sun Herald for thirty-five years. In the early 1980's Judy taught a series of bird identification classes in which she demonstrated her talent as a teacher. She lead birding Elderhostel's on the coast for several years. She was a director of the American Birding Association.

While probably best known to MOS members for her knowledge of birds, Judy was a multitaled person - seamstress, painter, writer, decorator, gourmet cook, tour leader extraordinaire, master teacher. Whatever was needed, whatever she was interested in, she mastered.

Judy was a founder of MS Coast Audubon. She led the establishment of the Nest in Peace project for the protection of least tern colonies on the coastal beaches, which still continues.

After Hurricane Katrina Judy led Operation Backyard Recovery, which focused on helping people and wildlife recover from damage to trees and habitat. She was instrumental in getting hundreds of donated bird books and feeders to people who lost theirs in the storm.

Many tributes have been written about Judy since her death. One was by Mark LaSalle, Director, Pascagoula River Audubon Center, " Judy was a wonderful person and friend, a great advocate for conservation, and inspired many from all walks of life to watch the birds. Please do what Judy wanted all of us to do... look outside and enjoy nature."

***A Memorial Ceremony for Judy Toups will be held at Pelican Pointe, Moss Point, MS.
Tentative date is 6 May. Arrangements are still being made.**

President's Corner

By Bill McGehee
M.O.S. President

I am a Mississippi native but didn't begin birding until I lived in Connecticut. After a couple of years as a solitary birder I had reached a plateau: I wasn't adding many new species to my short life list, there were birds (especially fall warblers) that I couldn't figure out and I was getting bored with the hobby. I joined the Hartford Audubon Society and learned a valuable life lesson. The easiest way to improve as a birder (or, probably, anything else) is to hang around people who know a lot more than you. Some HAS members had encyclopedic knowledge of identifying and finding New England birds and some of it rubbed off on me. I became a pretty proficient New England birder.

When Dottie and I decided to move to Mississippi or Louisiana we made a short list of places to consider. Having done little birding in either state, I knew I'd be facing a steep learning slope, so one important criterion was that the community have an Audubon Society chapter with members familiar with the area from whom I could learn. After we selected, and moved to, Natchez, I was very disappointed to discover that the Natchez chapter had recently dissolved and that the nearest chapter was about eighty miles away.

I don't recall now how I learned about MOS but it has been a godsend. I have had the opportunity to rub shoulders with giants of Mississippi birding such as Marvin Davis and Judy Toups and too many other great birders to list here. I will never be their equal but am a much more knowledgeable Mississippi birder than I would ever have been without M.O.S. Best of all, I can't think of a single member I've met that I haven't liked!

Thank you, Carl Smith for a great job and thank you, M.O.S. for choosing me to be your President. Hope to see you all at Coleman State Park. If not for you I doubt I'd have ever darkened the streets of Iuka!

Special KITE issue to honor Judy Toups

With the passing of Judy Toups on February 27 the MOS board members agreed that a special issue of the *Mississippi Kite* will be published and dedicated to her. The editors are asking that people send their stories about birding with Judy or information about things that Judy has done to advance birding or habitat conservation, etc. All articles should be submitted to Marion Schiefer, P. O. Box 1505, Starkville, MS 39760-1505, or via e-mail at marion_schiefer@hotmail.com. Please send articles by July 31, 2007.

NEW KITE EDITORS SOLICIT ARTICLES

Margaret Copeland, Marion Schiefer, and Nick Winstead have been appointed by the MOS Board as the new Co-Editors of *The Mississippi Kite* publications. They appreciate the efforts of Mark Woodrey, the former editor, in working on the backlog of *Kite* issues and getting the July 1999 through July 2003 issues published.

The new editors now need articles for the 2004, 2005, and 2006 issues. The articles could be about bird sightings or studies from previous years if the information has never been published. These articles could also be about any bird sighting or bird study that would advance the study of birdlife in the state of Mississippi. Submission of articles describing species occurrence and distribution, descriptions of behaviors, notes on the identification of Mississippi birds, as well as scientific studies from all fields of ornithology are encouraged.

All articles should be submitted to Marion Schiefer, P. O. Box 1505, Starkville, MS 39760-1505, or via e-mail to Marion at marion_schiefer@hotmail.com. For more information about the format of articles, please see the MOS website at <http://www.msstate.edu/org/mos/Officers.htm> and click on the link information for authors.

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

**Recap of the September 2006 MOS Meeting
By Dianne Patterson, Secretary**

A big thanks to Noxubee NWR and Beverly Smith for opening the Larry Box Education Center for our Fall MOS meeting and program. Birding was good with a total of 138 species seen.

Bill McGehee, vice-president, presided over the meeting in the absence of President Carl Smith. He called the meeting to order. Treasurer Jan Dubuisson was asked to give the annual treasurer's report. It was accepted as read and there were printed reports available for review.

New revisions to MOS by-laws regarding the process for filling incomplete terms of office were published in the MOS newsletter thirty days prior to meeting. The revisions were voted on and accepted as published.

The published minutes from the Fall Meeting were accepted and approved.

Nomination Committee Chairman, Terry Schiefer, was recognized. He presented the new slate of officers for 2007-2009. They were accepted and approved.

President	Bill McGehee
Vice-President	Sarajane Smith
Secretary	Frances Henne
Treasurer	Jan Dubuisson

Our program speaker for the evening was Nick Winstead. Nick is our state ornithologist and works with the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks at MS Science Museum in Jackson.

Nick's program was entitled "Secretive Marshbirds". His research was conducted at Reelfoot Lake in Tennessee. All marshbirds are facing extensive habitat loss over the last ten years, with both breeding and non-breeding birds losing ground. Bird conservation plans include all species—national and regional. His research proved that certain water levels promote giant cutgrass growth. Low water levels promote rapid growth vegetation like water willows that can take over the cutgrass marsh. Many birds use the cutgrass marsh and birds decline when the willow and vegetation overgrowth take over. Least Bittern and Common Moorhen were his survey birds. Research showed how important the cutgrass marsh was for the birds' nesting and safety. Public lands in MS and some agricultural wetlands can be managed for marshbirds. Mismanagement and lack of management are some problems the birds are facing.

Statewide surveys are needed for further research. If anyone would like to participate contact Nick at the museum in Jackson for instructions on conducting the survey.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Michael Grieneisen	Rusty Stork
Roy & Virginia Oliver	Daniel J. Twedt

Species List
Starkville, Columbus, Noxubee NWR, and Surrounding Areas
MOS Fall Meeting September 29- October 1 2006
138 Species

Greater White-fronted Goose	Rock Pigeon	Wood Thrush
Canada Goose	Eurasian Collared-Dove	American Robin
Wood Duck	Mourning Dove	Gray Catbird
Mallard	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Northern Mockingbird
Blue-winged Teal	Great Horned Owl	Brown Thrasher
Northern Shoveler	Barred Owl	European Starling
Wild Turkey	Chimney Swift	Blue-winged Warbler
Northern Bobwhite	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Golden-winged Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Belted Kingfisher	Tennessee Warbler
American White Pelican	Red-headed Woodpecker	Orange-crowned Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Parula
Anhinga	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Yellow Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Downy Woodpecker	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Great Egret	Hairy woodpecker	Magnolia Warbler
Snowy Egret	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Little Blue Heron	Northern Flicker	Blk-throated Green Warbler
Cattle Egret	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-throated Warbler
Green Heron	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Pine Warbler
White Ibis	Acadian Flycatcher	Palm Warbler
White-faced Ibis	Least Flycatcher	Bay-breasted Warbler
Wood Stork	Eastern Phoebe	Black-and-white Warbler
Black Vulture	Great Crested Flycatcher	American Redstart
Turkey Vulture	Loggerhead Shrike	Ovenbird
Osprey	White-eyed Vireo	Northern Waterthrush
Bald Eagle	Yellow-throated Vireo	Common Yellowthroat
Northern Harrier	Blue-headed Vireo	Hooded Warbler
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Philadelphia Vireo	Wilson's Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-eyed Vireo	Canada Warbler
Broad-winged Hawk	Blue Jay	Summer Tanager
Red-tailed Hawk	American Crow	Eastern Towhee
American Kestrel	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Peregrine Falcon	Tree Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Virginia Rail	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Swamp Sparrow
American Coot	Cliff Swallow	White-throated Sparrow
Killdeer	Barn Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Greater Yellowlegs	Carolina Chickadee	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Lesser Yellowlegs	Tufted Titmouse	Blue Grosbeak
Solitary Sandpiper	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Indigo Bunting
Willet	White-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Spotted Sandpiper	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Eastern Meadowlark
Least Sandpiper	Carolina Wren	Common Grackle
Stilt Sandpiper	Marsh Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Long-billed Dowitcher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Baltimore Oriole
Wilson's Snipe	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	House Finch
Caspian Tern	Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch
Forster's Tern	Gray-cheeked Thrush	House Sparrow

SPRING MEETING MAY 4-6, 2007
J.P. COLEMAN STATE PARK

LOCATION: Perched on a rocky bluff overlooking the Tennessee River J. P. Coleman State Park offers the finest in all types of water sports. Visitors experience unmatched sailing, swimming, skiing and fishing for Smallmouth bass in the sparkling waters of Pickwick Lake and enjoy camping and exploring in the untamed wilderness along the banks of the Tennessee River. J.P. Coleman State park is located on Pickwick Lake and the Tennessee River 13 miles North of Iuka off Hwy 25. Turn off Hwy. 25 onto CR 989 until it intersects CR 321. Turn right. Entrance to the park is approximately one mile.

SPEAKER: Dr. Tom Pullen is a native of Georgia and a graduate of the University of Georgia with degrees in Zoology and Forest Resources Management. His work history includes several years of teaching at Auburn University in Alabama, a couple of years in the Peace Corps working in El Salvador with their National Parks program, and researching the life history of the Highland Guan (AKA Black Chachalaca) in the Cloud Forests of Monte Cristo National Park. He worked several years with the Corps of Engineers' New Orleans District, helping plan the environmental and recreational features of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway Project. He spent a lot of years with the Corps' Mississippi River Commission and MS Valley Division in Vicksburg where he was involved with many Corps projects from Minnesota to the Gulf. Tom retired from this position three years ago and is now doing part time work as an independent contractor working primarily for the National Audubon Society on the Great River Birding Trail and on Nature Tourism Promotion. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and member of the Jackson Chapter of Audubon, the Mississippi Ornithological Society, and the Mississippi Wildlife Federation. Tom and his wife Ruth live in Hinds County near Byram, just south of Jackson.

ACCOMMODATIONS: J.P. Coleman State Park—Cabins as well as motel rooms are available. Call the park at 662-423-6515. The Victorian Inn in nearby Iuka is also available at 662-423-9221.

FRIDAY EVENING - MAY 4

6:30 -7:30 p.m.	Convention Center - Social hour - light refreshments provided
7:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Plans for field trips on Saturday and Sunday
8:00 p.m.	Board meeting

SATURDAY - MAY 5

6:45 - 7:00 a.m.	Gather at State Park Convention Center parking lot for field trips to depart promptly at 7:00 a.m.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Banquet in State Park Convention Center
7:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Business Meeting and Species Tally
8:00 p.m.	Speaker—Tom Pullen, Certified Wildlife Biologist, will speak about “Audubon’s Great River Birding Trail- a vehicle for promoting nature tourism along the Mississippi River”

SUNDAY - MAY 6

7:00 a.m.	Field trips - meet at State Park Convention Center parking lot
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MOS MAY 2007 MEETING - REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ E-Mail _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Additional Person (s):

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Registration	\$15.00 per person	___ Person (s) X	\$ 15.00 =	\$ _____
Banquet	\$12.00 per person	___ Person (s) X	\$ 12.00 =	\$ _____

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 April 23.

<p>ORDER FORM</p> <p>MOS ITEMS FOR SALE -- PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE CHARGES</p> <p align="right">Send me:</p> <p>MOS T-SHIRTS (with flying Miss. Kite), SIZES S, M, L, XL, \$17.00 ea. # _____ \$ _____</p> <p>MOS MS KITE LOGO PATCHES (for your cap or jacket), \$5.00 ea. # _____ \$ _____</p> <p>MOS FIELD CHECKLISTS OF BIRDS OF MISSISSIPPI, \$0.50 ea. # _____ \$ _____</p> <p>BEN COFFEY'S MID-SOUTH BIRD NOTES, (reprint collection)\$10 # _____ \$ _____</p> <p>BACK-ISSUES, THE MISSISSIPPI KITE JOURNAL, @ \$2.50 ea., inquire for Years and Nos. available</p> <p>MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO MOS. MAIL CHECK AND ORDER FORM TO:</p> <p align="center">Jan Dubuisson, MOS Treasurer 22410 Glad Acres Pass Christian, MS 39571</p>

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 >>>>>>