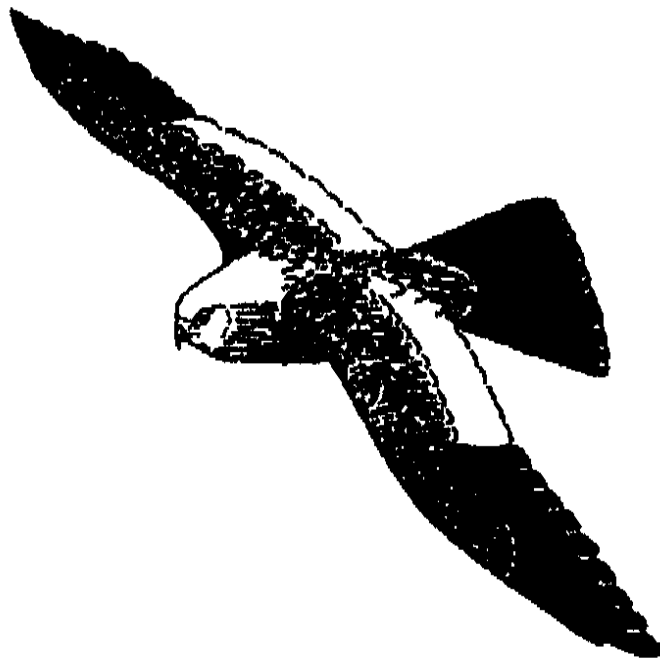


MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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MOS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Bill McGehee

VICE-PRESIDENT: Sarajane Smith

SECRETARY: Francis Henne

TREASURER: Jan Dubuisson

PAST PRESIDENT: Carl Smith

MISSISSIPPI KITE EDITORS: Margaret Copeland, Marion Schiefer, and Nick Winstead

MOS NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Gene and Shannon Knight

COMMITTEES

BIRD RECORDS: Chairman: Paul Hamel

Members: Philip Barbour, Ned Boyajian, Stephen Dinsmore, and Gene Knight

TUCKER AWARD: Gene Knight, Nona Herbert, and Gerry Morgan

NOMINATING: Terry Schiefer (Chair), Shannon Knight, and Ruth Pullen

REPRESENTATIVES TO SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MISSISSIPPI WILDLIFE FEDERATION: Mary Stevens

AMERICAN BIRDS: Terry Schiefer

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAYS: Mary Stevens

MOS COLONIAL WATERBIRD COUNT COORDINATOR: Mary Stevens

MISSISSIPPI BIRD INFORMATION

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.

President's Corner

By Bill McGehee

M.O.S. President

Shortly after moving to Natchez a few years ago I undertook a project which required reviewing decades of Natchez Christmas Bird Count reports. While many of these reports included what I considered “accidental”, e.g. pelagics or hummingbirds, and some years a usually reliable species wouldn't be found, most produced about the same number of species and mostly the same species. About the only “new” species I can think of was Eurasian Collared-Dove which showed up about the same time I did and is now well-established. In recent years, though, a number of species formally considered “western” have been popping up in this area frequently enough to suggest that there is a trend of some species expanding their population eastward. Review of range maps from my accumulation of outdated field guides and the Louisiana Breeding Bird Atlas tend to confirm that this is happening and has been happening in Louisiana and Texas for years. These species include:

- Neotropic Cormorant (once called Mexican Cormorant): Terry Schiefer identified two during a MOS outing at St. Catherine Creek NWR in 2003. Since then their numbers seem to increase each summer. I saw about twenty last week, but I have no idea where they nest. We get large flocks of cormorants in winter and we haven't identified neotrops among them, but they are pretty tough to ID when not in breeding plumage.
- Inca Dove: My 1983 field guide range maps don't show them in eastern Texas, although they've been abundant in Cameron Parish in recent years. I found a pair nesting near Ferriday, about ten miles west of Natchez about four years ago, a pair of immature birds in Natchez a year later and have seen them occasionally ever since. A flock of them has frequented a local bird feeder's yard for about a year where they have been photographed many times. The species is probably well established in Adams County.
- Western Meadowlark: I'd found a few of these along the levees west of the river but they made their Adams County CBC debut in 2006 at Anna's Bottom north of Natchez.
- Great-tailed Grackle: These moved into western Louisiana in the 1950's and range maps show their gradual eastward expansion since then. I found a flock of eight about a mile from the Mississippi River west of Natchez last January.
- Black-bellied Whistling Duck: These were introduced into southeastern Texas and southwestern Louisiana years ago and have been gradually working eastward. The first I'm aware of in this area was seen just across the river from Natchez in 2005. A sizable flock spent last summer in a remote area of St. Cat. I haven't checked on them lately.

All of these species have occasionally been sighted in Mississippi. I think the significance of the above is that it is likely that they (and perhaps other western species) will continue their eastward march until they become established Mississippi residents just as the House Finch and Eurasian Collared-Dove have irrupted from the North and East. What causes this sort of behavior? Beats me, but it's clear we are blessed to share a very dynamic and exciting planet!

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 Oct. 15, 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 mail or e-mail your articles to: Gene and Shannon Knight, 79 Hwy 9W, Oxford, MS 38655
662-236-2413 or gsknight@dixie-net.com

**Recap of the May 2007 Spring MOS Meeting
By Francis Henne, Secretary**

The MOS Board meeting was called to order by President Bill McGehee. There was a discussion on the proposed Judy Toups memorial. It was decided to have both testimonials and remembrances of Judy by MOS members in a special KITE issue. Articles should be sent to Marion Schiefer or Margaret Copeland by October 15.

Marion Schiefer suggested a committee be formed to plan MOS meetings in advance with Margaret Copeland as chairman.

Possible dates and areas for the next two meetings were discussed. Pass Christian, Ocean Springs, and Grenada were areas suggested. Dates were also discussed but no dates were finalized.

Gene Knight announced that new checklists were available at \$.50 each. A discussion followed as to why a new list was necessary, where they are available, and the cost of each. Jan Dubuisson suggested that each MOS member present be given a new checklist in the morning before the walk.

On Saturday evening the MOS business meeting was called to order by President Bill McGehee. Treasurer Jan Dubuisson gave the treasurer's report. It was accepted and approved.

Gene Knight of the Birds Records Committee reported changes in species from the old list, therefore a new checklist was needed. New lists can be purchased from him at \$.50 each. A new list was given to each MOS member this morning.

Marion Schiefer announced that two of the KITES would be distributed to members. She also stated that a special memorial KITE edition for Judith Toups would be published. Any testimonials or remembrances of Judy are to be sent to her by October 15, 2007.

Margaret Copeland reported that the Fall MOS meeting would be at Roosevelt State Park the fourth weekend in September.

The number of species seen was 111 (plus 12 added on Sunday).

The program speaker for the evening was Tom Pullen, a certified wildlife biologist who spoke about the development of the Great River Bird Trail and how it will encourage ecotourism in Mississippi and will enhance the development of many areas of the state. The floor was open for questions and discussion, after which the meeting was adjourned by President Bill McGehee.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS	
Matt Smith	Drew Wilson

Species List
J.P. Coleman State Park, Tishomingo State Park, and Surrounding Areas
MOS Spring Meeting 3-6 May 2007
123 Species

Canada Goose	Northern Flicker	Cape May Warbler
Wood Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Mallard	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Blk-throated Green Warbler
Wild Turkey	Acadian Flycatcher	Blackburnian Warbler
Common Loon	Least Flycatcher	Yellow-throated Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Eastern Phoebe	Pine Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Great Crested Flycatcher	Prairie Warbler
Great Egret	Eastern Kingbird	Palm Warbler
Green Heron	Loggerhead Shrike	Bay-breasted Warbler
Black Vulture	White-eyed Vireo	Blackpoll Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Yellow-throated Vireo	Black-and-white Warbler
Osprey	Warbling Vireo	American Redstart
Mississippi Kite	Red-eyed Vireo	Prothonotary Warbler
Bald Eagle	Blue Jay	Worm-eating Warbler
Cooper's Hawk	American Crow	Ovenbird
Red-shouldered Hawk	Fish Crow	Louisiana Waterthrush
Broad-winged Hawk	Purple Martin	Kentucky Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Common Yellowthroat
American Coot	Cliff Swallow	Hooded Warbler
Killdeer	Barn Swallow	Canada Warbler
American Avocet	Carolina Chickadee	Yellow-breasted Chat
Spotted Sandpiper	Tufted Titmouse	Summer Tanager
Willet	White-breasted Nuthatch	Scarlet Tanager
Laughing Gull	Carolina Wren	Eastern Towhee
Ring-billed Gull	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Chipping Sparrow
Caspian Tern	Eastern Bluebird	Field Sparrow
Rock Pigeon	Veery	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Swainson's Thrush	Blue Grosbeak
Black-billed Cuckoo	Wood Thrush	Indigo Bunting
Great Horned Owl	American Robin	Red-winged Blackbird
Barred Owl	Gray Catbird	Eastern Meadowlark
Common Nighthawk	Northern Mockingbird	Common Grackle
Chuck-will's-widow	Brown Thrasher	Brown-headed Cowbird
Whip-poor-will	European Starling	Orchard Oriole
Chimney Swift	Cedar Waxwing	Baltimore Oriole
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Golden-winged Warbler	House Finch
Belted Kingfisher	Tennessee Warbler	American Goldfinch
Red-headed Woodpecker	Northern Parula	House Sparrow
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Yellow Warbler	
Downy Woodpecker	Chestnut-sided Warbler	
Hairy Woodpecker	Magnolia Warbler	

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FINANCIAL REPORTS
SEPTEMBER 2006- APRIL 2007

INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT

INCOME

Dues	\$896.00
Interest	\$148.95
Donations	<u>\$130.00</u>

TOTAL INCOME **\$1,174.95**

EXPENSES

Newsletter- One Issue	\$121.87
Fall Meeting Expenses	(\$466.97)
Spring Meeting Deposit	\$100.00
Checklists	\$180.00
MWF Dues	\$100.00
Mailing 2 Issues of Kites	<u>\$138.00</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$173.74**

NET PROFIT **\$1,001.21**

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Checking Account	\$5,033.53
Savings Account	\$6,466.68
Certificate of Deposit	\$2,246.08
Coffey Endowment (Restricted)	\$15,000.00
Records Storage Files	\$440.60
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(\$440.60)</u>

TOTAL ASSETS **\$28,746.29**

NET WORTH **\$28,746.29**

POTHOLES AND PRAIRIE FESTIVAL
CARRINGTON, NORTH DAKOTA
By Frances Henne

Eight MOS members from Attala County traveled to North Dakota in early June to view the different birds of the pothole and prairie country. It was an interesting, exciting and very different birding trip.

Flat, flooded areas abounded with waterfowl and water birds. Sparrows, sandpipers, and grouse were on the grassy prairie areas. Many formerly farmed areas are being returned to their early prairie states.

A tractor wagon ride through a privately owned bison ranch was a high point of the festival. There we saw Soras, Upland Sandpipers, a nesting Gadwall, and numerous blackbird species. The many sparrows that we saw were Baird's, LeConte's, Nelson's Sharp-tailed, Savannah, Grasshopper, and Clay-colored. Savannah's and Clay-colored were the most numerous and very visible. On the range we also saw Chestnut-collared Longspurs and Sprague's Pipits.

Gray Partridge, Short-eared Owls, and Eastern and Western Kingbirds as well as Snipe and Cliff Swallows were seen while driving along the gravel back-country toads at dusk. Sunset was at 10:00 P.M.!

At other areas we saw American and Least Bittern, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron, and Great Egret. Great Egret is a recently noted bird in the area and its numbers are increasing.

The following folks attended the festival: Roy and Virginia Oliver, Vicki Williams, Lou Forsythe, Jackie, Ashley, and Kallie Kerr, and Frances Henne.

FALL MEETING SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2007
ROOSEVELT STATE PARK

LOCATION: Roosevelt State Park is located between Meridian and Jackson. The park is located off I-20 at Exit 77 on Highway 13 in Morton, MS. Go north approximately 1 mile. The park is on the left. From US-80 take Highway 13 South approximately 2 miles. The park is on the right. Roosevelt State Park is a 540 acre park with a 150 acre lake. It has a visitor's center with a mini-convention center for up to 200 people, group camping facilities, campsites, tent camping, cabins, and motel-style rooms. It offers tennis courts, game room, water slide, water sports, and a nature/wildlife observation area. Areas for birding include nearby Bienville WMA, Ross Barnett Reservoir, and the park itself.

SPEAKER: Due to the cancellation of our Program Speaker, a new speaker is yet to be determined at press time.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Roosevelt State Park—Motel-type rooms are still available at the park. Cabins were filled as of the day the meeting was planned, but you might call to see if there have been any cancellations on the cabins. Call 601-732-6316.

FRIDAY EVENING – SEPTEMBER 21

6:30 -7:30 p.m.	Camp Picnic Pavilion - 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 – SEPTEMBER 22

6:45 - 7:00 a.m.	Gather at State Park Visitor Center parking lot for field trips to depart promptly at 7:00 a.m.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Banquet in the Group Camp Dining Facility
7:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Business Meeting and Species Tally
8:00 p.m.	Speaker

SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 23

7:00 a.m.	Field trips - meet at the Visitor Center parking lot
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MOS SEPTEMBER 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.

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

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO MOS. 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 >>>>>>