
Mississippi Ornithological Society



Volume 53 Number 2

NEWSLETTER

September 2008

**FALL 2008 MOS MEETING
OCTOBER 3-5
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

The Fall 2008 MOS Meeting will be held in Jackson County on the weekend of October 3-5. A block of rooms has been reserved in the name of MOS at the LaFont Inn in Pascagoula. Rooms are \$76.00 per night. Directions are on the LaFont Inn's website. September 12 is the deadline for holding the block of rooms. The number is 866-647-6077. This is the first weekend of "Cruisin' the Coast" so other rooms may be hard to find.

On Friday evening we will meet at the Gulf Island National Seashore Park in Ocean Springs at 6:00 p.m. A light supper will be provided by members of the Gulf Coast Audubon Society. Directions to the Park: If you are traveling east on I-10, take the Ocean Springs Exit (Exit 50), go south 2.6 miles to Hwy. 90. Turn left. Go 2.8 miles to the sign at the Gulf Islands National Seashore. From LaFont Inn, go west on Hwy. 90 for 15 miles. Turn right at the sign. When taking the road into the park, take the first right, cross the bridge, and then take the first left towards the boat ramp. We are meeting at Pavilion 5. **REGISTRATION FORM IS ON THE BACK PAGE.**

FRIDAY EVENING - OCTOBER 3

6:00-7:00 p.m.	Gulf Island National Seashore, Pavilion 5, light supper
7:00-8:00 p.m.	Discussion of field trip
8:00 p.m.	Board Meeting

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 4

6:45-7:00 a.m.	Gather at LaFont Inn front parking lot to depart promptly at 7:00 a.m.
6:00-7:00 p.m.	Banquet/Buffer at LaFont Inn
7:00-7:15 p.m.	Business Meeting and Species Tally
7:15-8:00 p.m.	Featured Speaker – Ron Blackwell – Ron and his wife Lin live in Hattiesburg and are active in Hattiesburg's Audubon Society. Ron writes a weekly column on birding for the Sun Herald Newspaper. He is an author, storyteller, and bird tour guide. Ron will speak on "Birding in South Mississippi."

SUNDAY - OCTOBER 5

7:30 a.m.	Field Trips – Meet at LaFont Inn front parking lot
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KITE EDITORS SOLICIT ARTICLES

The KITE editors need articles for inclusion in the Mississippi Kite. 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.

MOS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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

MOS ON THE WEB

MISSBIRD@olemiss.edu
www.msstate.edu/org/mos

ATTENTION ALL MOS MEMBERS
ELECTRONIC MOS NEWSLETTER

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.

Minutes of the MOS Business Meeting
February 23, 2008

The spring MOS business meeting was called to order by President Bill McGehee. The minutes were approved as written. Jan Dubuisson gave the treasurer's report. It was approved as read.

Marion Schiefer gave a report of the Mississippi Kite committee and 3 issues of the Kite were distributed to the members.

Gene and Shannon stated that they will continue to publish the MOS Newsletter for another year. President Bill McGehee stated that he is still looking for a volunteer to replace them.

Sarajane Smith stated that the fall meeting would be in the Pascagoula area on October 3-5, 2008.

The speaker for the evening was Randy Wilson of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He discussed the migratory bird programs and plans being formulated to enhance migratory bird habitat.

Gene Knight conducted the Species Count. The number of bird species seen for the weekend was 115.

Submitted by Frances Henne,
MOS Secretary

MOS MEMBERSHIP FORM	
Name _____	
Address _____	
City, State, Zip: _____	
RENEWAL _____	NEW MEMBER _____
DUES:	
___ Individual	\$15 yr.
___ Family	\$25 yr.
___ Student/Senior Citizen	\$10 yr.
___ Subscribing (Libraries)	\$15 yr.
___ Sustaining	\$30 yr.
___ Life	\$300 yr.
<u>DUES ARE DUE</u>	
And payable in January of each year. Send check to: Jan Dubuisson, 22410 Glad Acres, Pass Christian, MS 39571	

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

President's Corner By Bill McGehee

Last winter, some fortunate MOS members and even out-of-state birders were thrilled by the rare appearance of several rough-legged hawks, likely a family group, in the Northern part of the state. Understandably, the discovery of the body of one of these Arctic guests near Tunica – apparently killed by a shotgun - created general outrage and disgust among us, along with a lot of MISSBIRD correspondence and conversation concerning whether MOS should publish the offer of a reward for information leading to the arrest of the murderer. Two members pledged \$250 each for reward money. This would have been the first time MOS had offered such a reward.

After much discussion our Board decided against offering a reward. There was some concern that the publicity might inspire other miscreants to commit copycat shootings of raptors. Some felt that, to be effective, a reward offer should have been made immediately after the crime was discovered, not a couple of weeks later. Others pointed out that, in similar cases where the perpetrators were arrested and convicted for killing protected species, the penalties imposed were laughably lenient (e.g. a \$50 fine!), hardly justifying our paying, say, \$500 in reward money!

The problem is that, under applicable federal law, deliberately shooting, poisoning, stomping, smothering or otherwise killing protected migratory birds is a Class B Misdemeanor, with penalties roughly equivalent to those for minor traffic or parking violations in most places.

There is a bill, **HR 4093, The Migratory Bird Treaty Act Penalty and Enforcement Act of 2007** pending in Congress that would amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 to provide that the intentional killing of protected bird species would be considered a felony, not a misdemeanor, sending a message to courts and prosecutors that Congress considers such crimes to be serious offences meriting substantial fines and even jail sentences for the most egregious instances. I believe this bill deserves our support and hope you agree.

If so, and you would like to make your Congressional Representative aware of your opinion, log on to <http://audubonaction.org/campaign/hr4093>. I hope you find the time to do so. If you have the time and inclination, a personal message might be even more effective.

I thank you all for permitting me to be your President for the past couple of years, an opportunity I never expected but will always cherish. I look forward to working and playing with you in future years as we continue our pursuit of the elusive Ivorybill.

Species List George Payne Cossar State Park February 22-24, 2008

Greater White-fronted Goose	Northern Harrier	Blue Jay	Common Yellowthroat
Snow Goose	Sharp-shinned Hawk	American Crow	Eastern Towhee
Ross's Goose	Cooper's Hawk	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Canada Goose	Red-shouldered Hawk	Horned Lark	Field Sparrow
Wood Duck	Red-tailed Hawk	Purple Martin	Savannah Sparrow
Gadwall	Rough-legged Hawk	Tree Swallow	LeConte's Sparrow
American Wigeon	American Kestrel	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Mallard	Merlin	Tufted Titmouse	Lincoln's Sparrow
Northern Shoveler	American Coot	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Swamp Sparrow
Northern Pintail	Killdeer	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Green-winged Teal	Wilson's Snipe	Brown-headed Nuthatch	White-crowned Sparrow
Canvasback	Bonaparte's Gull	Brown Creeper	Dark-eyed Junco
Ring-necked Duck	Ring-billed Gull	Carolina Wren	Lapland Longspur
Lesser Scaup	Herring Gull	House Wren	Northern Cardinal
Bufflehead	Forster's Tern	Winter Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Hooded Merganser	Rock Pigeon	Marsh Wren	Eastern Meadowlark
Common Merganser	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Rusty Blackbird
Ruddy Duck	Mourning Dove	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Brewer's Blackbird
Wild Turkey	Barred Owl	Eastern Bluebird	Common Grackle
Northern Bobwhite	Short-eared Owl	Hermit Thrush	Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Loon	Belted Kingfisher	American Robin	Purple Finch
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-headed Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	House Finch
Horned Grebe	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	Pine Siskin
Eared Grebe	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	European Starling	American Goldfinch
American White Pelican	Downy Woodpecker	American Pipit	House Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Hairy Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing	Species Total: 115
Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker	Orange-crowned Warbler	
Black Vulture	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Turkey Vulture	Eastern Phoebe	Pine Warbler	
Bald Eagle	Loggerhead Shrike	Palm Warbler	

MOS OCTOBER 2008 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	\$25.00 per person	___ Person (s)	X	\$ 25.00 =	\$ _____
Additional contribution to help with publications (\$5.00 per person suggested)					\$ _____
Total Enclosed					\$ _____

Mail registration form and check to reach Jan no later than September 15.
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

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 >>>>>