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# Mississippi Ornithological Society



Volume 54 Number 2

NEWSLETTER

September 2009

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**2009 MOS FALL MEETING**  
**September 25-27**  
**Vicksburg, MS**

The Fall Meeting will be held at the Battlefield Inn in Vicksburg (take Exit 4B off I-20) - Toll free number is 1-800-359-9363. Rooms are \$66 plus tax - includes a complimentary breakfast that begins at 6:00 a.m. **REGISTRATION FORM IS ON BACK PAGE.**

**FRIDAY EVENING – SEPTEMBER 25**

6:30-7:30 p.m.	Battlefield Inn – Social Hour – Light Refreshments
7:30-8:00 p.m.	Plans for field trips on Saturday and Sunday
8:00 p.m.	Board Meeting

**SATURDAY – SEPTEMBER 26**

6:45 a.m.	Gather at the parking area at the Battlefield Inn for field trips.
6:30-7:30 p.m.	Banquet at the Battlefield Inn
7:30-8:00 p.m.	Business Meeting and Species Tally
8:00 p.m.	<b>SPEAKER</b> – Matt Smith’s talk is titled "The Woodpecker's Tale: Mississippi History in a Bird's Eye View."

**SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 27**

7:00 a.m.	Field trips – meet at the Battlefield Inn parking lot
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**ABOUT THE SPEAKER**

Matt Smith is a lifelong naturalist and Jacksonian who has birded on six continents, but still prefers the Pearl River woods of his childhood. After completing his master's degree in geography at Florida State University, Matt returned home and currently works as a mapmaker and GIS analyst at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. He also serves as a board member and webmaster with the Jackson Audubon Society, writes a quarterly birding column for Delta Wildlife magazine, and speaks regularly on natural history topics. Meanwhile, he is pursuing a second master's degree in creative writing for children, with a focus on science and nature writing. His talk is tentatively titled "The Woodpecker's Tale: Mississippi History in a Bird's Eye View." This would serve as a colorful tour of the environmental history of our state, as told through the stories of its birds -- from the Peregrine Falcon's role in pre-Columbian mythology to the Sandhill Crane's role in the modern conservation movement, and from the destruction of our virgin forest and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker's downfall to the Least Tern perseverance through coastal development and Hurricane Katrina.

**MOS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESIDENT:** Sarajane Smith  
**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Nancy Madden  
**SECRETARY:** Martha Swan  
**TREASURER:** Jan Dubuisson  
**PAST PRESIDENT:** Bill McGehee  
**MISSISSIPPI KITE EDITORS:** Margaret Copeland, Marion Schiefer, and Nick Winstead  
**MOS NEWSLETTER EDITORS:** Gene and Shannon Knight

**MOS ON THE WEB**

[MISSBIRD@olemiss.edu](mailto:MISSBIRD@olemiss.edu)  
[www.msstate.edu/org/mos](http://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](mailto:gsknight@dixie-net.com)  
Thanks for your help.

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

**President's Corner**

By Sarajane Smith  
MOS President

Belonging to MOS can lead to many birding adventures and lasting friendships. One of my MOS friends, Frances Henne, kept telling me how wonderful the birding was at Crane Creek and Magee Marsh Wildlife Area near Port Clinton, Ohio. She said that during spring migration the warblers/birds could be seen at eye level rather than up in the treetops. Being hard to believe, I wanted to experience this for myself.

The second week of May eight members of MOS met at Port Clinton, Ohio. They were Frances Henne, Vicki Williams, Lou Forsythe, Virginia Oliver, Willa and Max Sanders, my husband Jack and myself. For three days we all enjoyed up close and personal views of about 26 species of warblers and many more birds. Vicki, Willa, and Jack enjoyed taking photographs of the birds at close range.

Max, Willa, Jack and I met at the Kirtland's Warbler Festival in Roscommon, Michigan. We finally got some great views of the Kirtland's Warbler, a life bird for all of us!

The benefits of being a member of MOS are establishing friendships with those who have a common interest in birds, learning how to identify birds and the resources needed, taking part in birding trips, and developing a knowledge of birding research and activities going on in our state. Please come and join us in Vicksburg on September 25-27. I want to quote Vicki Williams, "Birding is always more fun with good friends."

**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](mailto:gsknight@dixie-net.com)

Minutes of the MOS Board and Business Meetings  
April 24-26, 2009

**Friday, April 24, 2009**

Members gathered at the Lyle Entomological Center on the Mississippi State University Campus. Following refreshments provided by the Oktibbeha Audubon Society, a program entitled Colonial Nesting Birds of the Mississippi Gulf Coast was presented by Jan Dubuisson, MOS member and treasurer. Focusing on nesting Least Terns and Black Skimmers, Jan showed cartoons from Peter Delacorte and Michael Witte's THE BOOK OF TERNS, as well as local photographs of adults, chicks, and habitat. She recounted anecdotes illustrating the challenges of managing nesting activities on a busy public beach.

**Board Meeting:** Present: Sarajane Smith, President; Nancy Madden, Vice-President; Martha Swan, Secretary; Jan Dubuisson, Treasurer; Marion Schiefer and Margaret Copeland, Co-editors, The Mississippi Kite; Gene and Shannon Knight, Co-editors, MOS Newsletter.

The president called the meeting to order. There was no old business. As new business, plans were announced for the next two meetings. The Fall 2009 meeting will be in Vicksburg, headquartered at the Battlefield Inn, on Sept 25-27. The Winter 2010 meeting will be at the George Payne Cossar State Park on Enid Reservoir, on February 26-28. Valery Smith, a wildlife rehabilitator, was mentioned as a possible speaker. Gene will contact her. It was reported that state parks must be booked almost a year in advance, as they are in great demand for family reunions. In view of this fact, it was decided to try to get Percy Quin State Park, near McComb, for the Fall 2010 meeting. Possible meeting sites in the Jackson area were discussed, as well as possible speakers for future meetings. For the Vicksburg meeting, it was suggested that we get someone to speak on the Great River Birding Trail.

The J.W. Tucker Award has not been given since 2001. A committee was appointed to try to select a recipient by the Fall 2009 meeting. Margaret Copeland will be the chair, with members Nancy Madden and Martha Swan. The recipient must be a member of MOS, bringing up the need for an updated MOS Directory. An information sheet will be included in the September 2009 MOS Newsletter requesting members to update their address info. The new MOS Directory will be included in the Spring newsletter.

Gene Knight, MBRC Chair, reported on the progress made by the MBRC (Mississippi Bird Records Committee). The by-laws have been revised to allow voting by email. Also an updated Review Species List and Documentation Form is available on the MOS website.

Marion reported on the status of the Mississippi Kite. The next issue will include Gene's regular article "Birds around the State", or BATS. However, there are no other articles ready for publication. Everyone should encourage their colleagues to submit articles for publication. The meeting adjourned at 8:55.

**Saturday, April 25, 2009**

Following field trips to the Columbus area (White's Slough, the Riverwalk, Plymouth Bluff, a pontoon boat trip on the Tenn-Tom waterway) and Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, the group gathered at the Larry Box Conservation Center at Noxubee for a catered BBQ dinner. Then Dr. Steve Grado from MSU - with the Forest and Wildlife Research Center. enlisted the aid of MOS members in collecting data on the economic impact of birders. Expenditures of any trip which includes birding activity should be reported online at <http://www.greatriverbirding.org/survey/>.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Jan Dubuisson, then Gene Knight reported on the activities of the MBRC. Bird species sighted during the day were tallied, and plans for Sunday field trips were discussed.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

RON BLACKWELL

HAL MITCHELL

HARLEY METCALFE, III

KATIE HANSON

T.J. RAY

**Species List**  
**2009 MOS SPRING MEETING**  
**April 24-26**  
**STARKVILLE/COLUMBUS/NOXUBEE NWR**

Canada Goose	Least Sandpiper	Tree Swallow	Louisiana Waterthrush
Wood Duck	Wilson's Snipe	N. R-winged Swallow	Kentucky Warbler
Mallard	Rock Pigeon	Cliff Swallow	Common Yellowthroat
Blue-winged Teal	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Barn Swallow	Hooded Warbler
Hooded Merganser	Mourning Dove	Carolina Chickadee	Yellow-breasted Chat
Northern Bobwhite	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Tufted Titmouse	Summer Tanager
Common Loon	Barn Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch	Scarlet Tanager
Pied-billed Grebe	Great Horned Owl	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Eastern Towhee
Dble-crested Cormorant	Barred Owl	Carolina Wren	Bachman's Sparrow
Anhinga	Common Nighthawk	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Chipping Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Chuck-will's-widow	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Field Sparrow
Great Egret	Whip-poor-will	Eastern Bluebird	Lark Sparrow
Snowy Egret	Chimney Swift	Veery	Savannah Sparrow
Little Blue Heron	R.-throated Hummingbird	Wood Thrush	Swamp Sparrow
Tricolored Heron	Belted Kingfisher	American Robin	White-throated Sparrow
Cattle Egret	Red-headed Woodpecker	Gray Catbird	White-crowned Sparrow
Green Heron	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	Northern Cardinal
White Ibis	Downy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Black Vulture	Hairy Woodpecker	European Starling	Blue Grosbeak
Turkey Vulture	R-cockaded Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing	Indigo Bunting
Osprey	Northern Flicker	Blue-winged Warbler	Dickcissel
Mississippi Kite	Pileated Woodpecker	Tennessee Warbler	Bobolink
Bald Eagle	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Parula	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-shouldered Hawk	Acadian Flycatcher	Yellow Warbler	Eastern Meadowlark
Broad-winged Hawk	Eastern Phoebe	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Common Grackle
Red-tailed Hawk	Great Crested Flycatcher	Magnolia Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
American Kestrel	Eastern Kingbird	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Orchard Oriole
Common Moorhen	Loggerhead Shrike	Yellow-throated Warbler	Baltimore Oriole
American Coot	White-eyed Vireo	Pine Warbler	House Finch
Semipalmated Plover	Yellow-throated Vireo	Prairie Warbler	Pine Siskin
Killdeer	Red-eyed Vireo	Palm Warbler	American Goldfinch
Spotted Sandpiper	Blue Jay	Blackpoll Warbler	House Sparrow
Solitary Sandpiper	American Crow	Black-and-white Warbler	
Greater Yellowlegs	Fish Crow	American Redstart	
Lesser Yellowlegs	Horned Lark	Prothonotary Warbler	
Upland Sandpiper	Purple Martin	Swainson's Warbler	<b>Species Total: 140</b>



**Secondary Address**      **Dates Effective** (m/d/y) / / **thru** (m/d/y) / /

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Fax/Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail/Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

**For use of Primary Addresses only:** If you like to guide visiting birders or answer questions about birding in your area and you would like everyone to know then check the slot that you prefer. If you choose to guide or aid fellow birders, then after your name and address in the 2005 Directory will be followed by a symbol (letter A, B, C) of contact.

\_\_\_ I will guide birders in my area with advanced notice

\_\_\_ I will not guide birders but will give out birding information about birds in my area

I will answer questions about birding in my area

\_\_\_ A. By Phone

\_\_\_ B. By Letter

\_\_\_ C. By E-mail

**REMEMBER: IF YOU WANT THIS INFORMATION TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEW 2010 MOS DIRECTORY THIS SPRING FILL IN THE FORM NOW AND MAIL TO: Gene Knight, 79 HWY 9W, Oxford, MS 38655, NO LATER THAN 1 DEC. 2009 !!**

**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](mailto: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](#).

## Dedication of the Judy Toups Least Tern Highway

Judy Toups (1930-2007) founded the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society in 1975. Her mission for the group was to focus on the coastal species in the area, particularly Least Terns and Black Skimmers. Since both breed along the beaches of the Mississippi Coast their nests are greatly threatened by beach activity during their nesting season. In 1981 Judy developed the “Nest in Peace” Program to protect these and other beach-nesting birds. Below, in a photo by Dan Guravich, Judy is shown here in 1983 with one of the Least Tern babies that she worked so hard to protect.



To honor Judy’s outstanding efforts on behalf of the beach-nesting birds along the Mississippi Coast, a portion of Highway 90 has been dedicated to her. The ceremony took place on June 19, 2009. The highway is now named “Judy Toups Least Tern Highway.”



Shown above with the new highway sign (from left to right) are Judy’s family members Christine, Patrice, and Jeff, Brian Carriere, councilman from Gulfport, and MDOT official Wayne Brown. Photo by Sharon Milligan

