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# Mississippi Ornithological Society



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

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**Volume 55 Number 1**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**February 2010**

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### **2010 MOS WINTER MEETING**

**February 26-28**

**George Payne Cossar State Park, Enid Lake, MS**

George Payne Cossar State Park is located 5 miles east of I-55 off MS Hwy 32 between Grenada and Batesville. Cossar is a 982 acre park situated on a peninsula-like arm jutting into Enid Reservoir. Cossar has 13 cabins, 84 camping pads, visitor's center, and nature trails. Call 662-623-7356 for information. If there are no vacancies at the park nearby Batesville has motels right off I-55. Call Comfort Inn at 662-563-1188; Day's Inn at 662-563-4999; Hampton Inn at 662-578-5555. **REGISTRATION FORM IS ON BACK PAGE.**

#### **FRIDAY EVENING – FEBRUARY 26**

6:00-7:00 p.m.	Visitor's Center – Social Hour – Light Refreshments
7:00-7:30 p.m.	Plans for field trips on Saturday and Sunday
7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting

#### **SATURDAY – FEBRUARY 27**

6:45 a.m.	Meet at the Visitor's Center parking lot for field trips
3:00 p.m.	Public invited to MWR's program at Visitor's Center
6:00-7:00 p.m.	Banquet at the Park Restaurant next to Visitor's Center
7:00-7:30 p.m.	Business Meeting and Species Tally
7:30 p.m.	<b>SPEAKERS</b> – Valery Smith and Nancy Fachman with the MS Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc. will present the program. (See below).

#### **SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 28**

7:00 a.m.	Field trips – meet at the Visitor's Center parking lot
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#### **ABOUT THE SPEAKERS**

Valery Smith, Executive Director of the MS Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc., located in Lake Cormorant, MS and Nancy Fachman who is an Education Specialist with the MWR and lives in Water Valley will discuss the need for a nature and environmental education facility in North MS and the important role that wildlife rehabilitators play in trying to educate the public regarding our Federally Protected Species. With them will be MWR's live education birds of prey.

MWR is an all-volunteer charitable organization dedicated to caring for orphaned and injured native species of wildlife in MS. Permitted by the MS Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MWR helps care for 24 counties and is the only licensed facility for wildlife rehabilitation in North MS.

**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**

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**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, 22481 Glad Acres, Pass Christian, MS 39571	

**President's Corner**

By Sarajane Smith  
MOS President

One thing I always wanted to do when I retired was to participate in a Christmas Bird Count. The Count in our area has always been the week before Christmas break. So beginning in 2002 I began participating in the Hancock and Jackson County CBC's. It is something I have enjoyed immensely. This year I woke up on December 15<sup>th</sup> and wondered, "Did I really sign up for this?" It was raining heavily, but I got up and drove an hour through the heavy rain to Hancock County to meet my birding partners.

I know many of you had bitter cold, windy conditions, rain and flooded areas. It was a learning experience to see which birds came out in these conditions. Thanks to all the participants and compilers who are so dedicated to birding in our state.

We can't promise you perfect weather at the MOS Meeting, but we can promise you good birding in N MS and the Delta. To cap off the weekend of good birding and good fellowship, a great program and dinner will be provided on Saturday evening.

**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  
September 25-27 2009

The Board of the Mississippi Ornithological Society met Friday evening, September 25, at the Battlefield Inn, Vicksburg, MS. Members present were Sarajane Smith, President; Martha Swan, Secretary; Bill McGehee, Past President; Gene and Shannon Knight, Editors, MOS Newsletter; and Margaret Copeland, Co-editor, Mississippi Kite.

The President called the meeting to order. As old business, Margaret Copeland, chair of the Tucker Award Committee, reported that a recipient for the award had not been selected in several years. She requested that nominations be solicited from the membership in the next issue of the newsletter.

Gene Knight reported on the speaker for the Spring 2010 meeting, which will be held Feb. 26-28 at George Payne Cossar State Park on Enid Lake. Valery Smith, a wildlife rehabilitator from Lake Cormorant will be the speaker, and will bring some live birds which are under her care. This has been cleared with park management.

The Board made the decision to put the Checklist of Birds of Mississippi on the MOS website. Gene will send an electronic copy of the checklist to Terry Schiefer who is in charge of the website.

As new business, Bill McGehee suggested that the Fall 2010 meeting be held at St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge and Natchez area. The tentative dates are August 13-15 2010.

Following the banquet Saturday evening, September 26, the President called the MOS Business Meeting to order. She thanked those who had contributed food to the Friday evening buffet, the leaders of the field trips, and editors of the newsletter and Kite. She invited members to nominate possible recipients of the Tucker Award, and answered questions about the purpose and qualifications. Plans for the Spring, 2010 meeting were announced, along with tentative plans for Fall 2010. Gene Knight tallied the birds sighted on the day's field trips to Tensas River NWR in Louisiana, the Vicksburg National Military Park, and the Eagle Lake area. The final tally was 97 species.

Mary Stevens then introduced the Speaker, Matt Smith, who gave a fascinating presentation entitled "The Woodpecker's Tale: Mississippi History in a Bird's Eye View." He recounted developments in Mississippi up to 1860, including native populations, European exploration and settlement, changes in land use, and how they affected the natural history of the area, especially bird populations.

After a question and answer session, President Sarajane Smith dismissed the meeting.

Submitted by Martha Swan  
MOS Secretary

### TUCKER AWARD NOMINATIONS

In the past, the Tucker Award Committee has chosen the award recipient. We would like to change that process by opening up the award selection to the entire MOS membership. The award is named in honor of J. W. Tucker, an early conservationist with a keen interest in nature, birds, rocks, and minerals. Mr. Tucker presented the Tucker medallion to MOS in 1956. The award is given to a deserving MOS member who has done outstanding field work, encouraged conservation, has participated in a worthwhile bird study project, or who has contributed significant service to MOS.

If you would like to recommend an MOS member for the Tucker Award, please write a descriptive paragraph or two about the person's accomplishments and reasons why you think this person should receive the award. All recommendations must be in by **June 30, 2010**. Please mail to Margaret Copeland, 909 Evergreen, Starkville, MS 39759, or call 662-323-1445 (home), or email at [copeland@ms.metrocast.net](mailto:copeland@ms.metrocast.net). The Tucker Award Selection Committee will review all recommendations and choose the best qualified.

**Species List**  
**2009 MOS FALL MEETING**  
**September 25-27**  
**Vicksburg, Eagle Lake, and Tensas River NWR**

Wood Duck	Mourning Dove	Wood Thrush
Mallard	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	American Robin
Blue-winged Teal	Eastern Screech-Owl	Gray Catbird
Wild Turkey	Common Nighthawk	Northern Mockingbird
Pied-billed Grebe	Chimney Swift	Brown Thrasher
American White Pelican	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	European Starling
Double-crested Cormorant	Belted Kingfisher	Blue-winged Warbler
Anhinga	Red-headed Woodpecker	Tennessee Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Parula
Great Egret	Downy Woodpecker	Black-throated Green
Snowy Egret	Northern Flicker	Warbler
Little Blue Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-throated Warbler
Cattle Egret	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Black-and-white Warbler
White Ibis	Acadian Flycatcher	American Redstart
Plegadis species	Great Crested Flycatcher	Worm-eating Warbler
Roseate Spoonbill	Eastern Kingbird	Common Yellowthroat
Wood Stork	Loggerhead Shrike	Hooded Warbler
Black Vulture	White-eyed Vireo	Summer Tanager
Turkey Vulture	Yellow-throated Vireo	Scarlet Tanager
Osprey	Red-eyed Vireo	Eastern Towhee
Bald Eagle	Blue Jay	Northern Cardinal
Cooper's Hawk	American Crow	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Red-shouldered Hawk	Fish Crow	Blue Grosbeak
Broad-winged Hawk	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Red-tailed Hawk	Cliff Swallow	Painted Bunting
American Kestrel	Barn Swallow	Dickcissel
Peregrine Falcon	Carolina Chickadee	Red-winged Blackbird
Common Moorhen	Tufted Titmouse	Common Grackle
Killdeer	White-breasted Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Solitary Sandpiper	Carolina Wren	Baltimore Oriole
Least Sandpiper	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	House Finch
Rock Pigeon	Eastern Bluebird	House Sparrow
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Swainson's Thrush	<b>Species Total: 97</b>

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

DAVID RINGER

BILL TAYLOR

## 2010 MOS DIRECTORY

In the Fall 2009 Newsletter MOS members were asked to indicate if they were willing to guide birders visiting their area, or whether or not they were willing to respond to written, telephone, or email queries. For members choosing not to return the up-date address flyer in the previous newsletter, your address will remain the same as your mailing address and we will assume you don't want to be contacted for birding information. For those of you who returned the up-dated address flyer, your address will be followed by a number/letter that will indicate the type of help you're willing to provide.

### Legend:

1. I am willing to guide visiting birders with advance notice by first making arrangements by the following means (A, B, or C).
2. I am not willing to guide visiting birders but will answer inquiries.
  - A. I am willing to answer telephone inquiries.
  - B. I am willing to answer written inquiries.
  - C. I am willing to answer email inquiries.

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## **TIPS FOR A HEALTHY FEEDING STATION**

### **Taken from Bird Watcher's Digest 1999**

- Give your seed feeders (especially thistle and tube feeders) a shake before you refill them to dislodge any compacted seed. Dump out any wet clumps of old seed.
- Clean all hulls off platform feeders and out of seed trays daily.
- Keep some old spatulas and brushes handy by the feeding station for cleaning purposes.
- Disinfect feeders by scrubbing with a weak bleach solution (1/4 cup of bleach to 2 gallons of warm water) every few weeks, more often in summer or rainy periods. Rinse and allow feeders to dry before refilling.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after filling or cleaning your feeders.
- Move your feeding station when the ground beneath it becomes with seed hulls and droppings. Rake the old site to remove hulls and to give the grass a chance to recover.
- Store your seed in a clean, dry, air-tight container, such as a metal or plastic garbage can.
- Don't put hulled sunflower hearts (or bits) out where wet weather can cause them to spoil. Offer them in a tube or hopper feeder.
- Don't put out any more seed than can be eaten by the birds by nightfall, especially where raccoons, opossums, bears, deer, or rodents are a problem.
- If you see a sick or dead bird at your feeders, halt your feeding for a few weeks to allow the healthy birds to disperse. This lessens the possibility of disease transmission. Remove and discard in the trash any dead birds. Report the sick birds to your local wildlife officials, many of whom monitor wildlife health.
- Reduce window-kills of birds by placing feeders a safe distance away. If birds regularly strike a particular window place a screen, crop netting, or a series of branches over or in front of the outside glass panel to break up the reflection.
- Don't allow large amounts of seed to become wet, as on platform feeders. Instead, when it's wet outside, feed primarily from covered feeders that will keep seed dry, or put out only a handful of seed at a time on platforms.
- Don't use grease, oil, petroleum jelly, or similar substances on your feeder poles or wires to thwart squirrels, ants, or other feeder-raiding creatures. If these substances come into contact with bird feathers they are impossible for the bird to preen or wash out. Goopy feathers can become useless for flight or insulation, thus putting the birds at risk to predators, extreme weather, and disease. For squirrels and other mammals use a pole-mounted baffle (many are sold commercially). For ants, use an ant guard that prevents ants from reaching the feeder. Both baffles and ant guards are available on the Internet, by mail-order, or in retail stores that sell an extensive array of backyard products.
- If you provide suet, reduce the amount you offer in hot weather. Heat can make suet rancid and unhealthy for birds. Runny suet can also stick to birds' feathers, making them hard to keep clean and useful. Use rendered suet or heat-resilient suet blocks that are available commercially.
- Don't discontinue feeding as soon as the grass greens and the weather warms in spring. Many birds will continue coming to your feeders all summer long.
- Though birds may not be entirely dependent on your feeder, it's best not to leave them totally without food if you plan to be away from home in mid-winter. Purchase an oversized feeder with a large seed capacity, or ask a willing neighbor to continue feeding your birds.

**MOS FEBRUARY 2010 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	\$17.00 per person	___ Person (s)	X	\$ 17.00 =	\$ _____

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  
 22481 Glad Acres  
 Pass Christian, MS 39571

**Mail the registration form to reach Jan no later than February 10.**

**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 >>>>>>**