
Mississippi Ornithological Society



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

Volume 56 Number 1

NEWSLETTER

March 2011

2011 MOS SPRING MEETING

March 25-27

**Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Jackson County, MS**

The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GBNERR) is a marine protected area located in extreme southeastern Mississippi in Jackson County near the small community of Pecan. The GBNERR is comprised of approximately 18,000 acres, found chiefly within the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the Grand Bay Savanna Coastal Preserve. This reserve contains a variety of wetland habitats, both tidal and non-tidal, such as pine savannas, salt marshes, salt pans, bays and bayous as well as terrestrial habitats that are unique to the coastal zone such as maritime forests. **Directions to GBNERR:** From I-10, take Exit 75 (Franklin Creek Road) and head south towards Hwy. 90. Turn right on Hwy. 90 (heading west) and travel approximately 1.2 miles to Pecan Road. There will be a left-hand turn lane here, but no signal light. (If you pass Pascagoula Auto Salvage and the Gator Farm, you have gone too far.) Turn left on Pecan Road. Travel approximately ½ mile and take your first right and cross over the railroad tracks. Bayou Heron Road turns off to the right. Continue right on Bayou Heron Road. You will see the Center approximately 1 mile down the road on the right-hand side. For more information and driving instructions please refer to their website: www.grandbaynerr.org

ACCOMMODATIONS: The following motels are located off Interstate 10 at the Hwy. 63 Exit.

Schular Inn 228-475-8444 Holiday Inn Express 877-786-9480

Quality Inn 228-475-2477 Comfort Inn 228-474-3600 La Quinta Inn 228-474-4488

Reservations may be made at any of the casinos on the beach in Harrison County. They do offer good weekend deals. The motels listed are closer to GBNERR. The La Font Inn is no longer in business. You may also choose to stay in Ocean Springs, Biloxi, or Gulfport. **REGISTRATION FORM IS ON BACK PAGE.**

FRIDAY EVENING – March 25

- 5:00 p.m. Board Meeting
- 5:30-6:30 p.m. Social hour at Grand Bay NERR—refreshments will be catered (**no need to bring food**) and discussion of field trip options for Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- 6:30 p.m. Depart for Sandhill Crane Refuge to hunt for Yellow Rails.

SATURDAY – March 26

- 7:30 a.m. Field trip to Seaman Road Lagoons will meet at Park and Ride, Exit #50 off I-10
- 2:00 p.m. Optional trip via McCoy River tours, fee extra. This trip requires a commitment of 10 people.
- 7:00-8:00 p.m. Banquet at Grand Bay NERR with Jake Walker as speaker (more info on p.3). Also species tally and bird sightings reports.
- 8:00 p.m. Board meeting if unable to meet at 5:00 p.m. on Friday

SUNDAY – March 27

- 7:00 a.m. Field trip of Grand Bay NERR. Meet at parking lot.

MOS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Nancy Madden
VICE-PRESIDENT: Jake Walker
SECRETARY: Martha Swan
TREASURER: Jan Dubuisson
PAST PRESIDENT: Sarajane 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@hughes.net
Thanks for your help

The President's Corner
By Nancy Madden
MOS President

2011 greetings to all! The newsletter editors asked me to write a paragraph or two to introduce myself as your new president. I would like to thank Sarajane for keeping us together the last two years and to Jake Walker for fearlessly agreeing to be our new Vice President. Martha and Jan are pillars of constancy for our society and deserve many rounds of applause.

Not to bore you, but a little about me. I am a semi-retired RN. You know how family, neighbors and friends need medical help and advice. I keep a life list and am as excited by the next new species as the first. Judy Toups was my mentor and friend. I proudly declare myself a "Bushwhacker."

My birding knowledge grows every time I venture out with others in the birding community. We are very fortunate to have such great teachers in our society. I love to talk so please say "Hi" when we meet and let me know what you are thinking about MOS. What should this society be doing in this ever changing world?

I really hope to greet many of you this coming March at our Spring meeting down here on the lovely Gulf Coast. Please come! We have great seafood and unbelievable vistas along with some of the first land that northern migrating birds visit. See ya here!

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, 22481 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@hughes.net

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Jake Walker is a research technician at the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve where he studies winter marsh bird ecology, breeding marsh birds, wintering and migratory shorebirds, and mercury deposition. Jake has been at Grand Bay NERR since January 2006 and has co-authored the book "Selected Birds of the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and Vicinity." He has served as Chapter President of the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society since May 2009 and is the MS Regional Editor for eBird. Jake has served on the MS Bird Records Committee since January 2010. Before moving to Mississippi, Jake worked for various avian field studies taking place in Massachusetts, Delaware, Maryland, Ontario, Manitoba and New York. Jake graduated from Cornell University in 2002 with a degree in Natural Resources and Wildlife Management. He grew up in Maryland in the Washington, DC area, where he started birding with his father at the age of 6.

Minutes of the MOS Board and Business Meetings August 13, 2011

MOS Minutes - Fall 2010
Natchez, MS Grand Hotel & St. Catherine Creek NWR
Friday, August 13, 2010

Following a buffet dinner, President Sarajane Smith called the MOS business meeting to order. The Mississippi Kites for December 2008 and July 2009 were distributed. These issues and the July 2008 issue will be mailed soon to members who were not at the meetings.

Frances Henne explained the display of handmade quilts with bird themes. Some were made by volunteers for the "Save the River" campaign led by the Pascagoula River Audubon Center, with each block depicting a bird or bird-related design, and some were made by individuals. They were found stored away in a Crystal Springs warehouse, but will now be displayed at the Mississippi Museum of Natural History.

Jan Dubuisson presented the treasurer's report.

Plans are being made for the Spring 2011 meeting to be held on the coast, based at the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve near Pascagoula in late March.

Nominations for new officers for the next term are: President: Nancy Madden, Vice-President: Jake Walker, Secretary: Martha Swan, Treasurer: Jan Dubuisson.

The nominations were accepted by acclamation.

Bill McGehee introduced the speaker for the evening, Bob Strader, Project Leader of the St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge. Bob gave an interesting illustrated talk describing the history and mission of the refuge. He asked the group for input on sharing information with birders, publishing a refuge bird list, and making the refuge more "birder-friendly." At present, most refuge users are hunters and fishermen. Then plans for the Saturday morning field trips were discussed, as well as watching the birds flying to roost around sunset.

Following the business meeting, the board meeting was held. Present were Sarajane Smith, President; Nancy Madden, Vice-President; Martha Swan, Secretary; Marion Schiefer, Co-editor, Mississippi Kite, and Jan Dubuisson, Treasurer.

Marion related Margaret Copeland's concern about the management of the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge. She is worried that logging decisions are being made that threaten the long-term health of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Sarajane moved that MOS write a letter to the Refuge management in support of Margaret, if Margaret decides that it would be beneficial.

Nancy reviewed the plans for the Spring 2011 meeting. It will be based at Grand Bay NERR, with a catered dinner Saturday evening. Jake Walker will be the speaker. Boat trips will be available. A nearby motel will be sought since the LaFont Inn in Pascagoula has closed.

Tentatively, the Fall 2011 meeting will be in the Jackson area, possibly at Roosevelt State Park, in late September/early October. Someone who was recently on the MPB "Creature Comforts" radio program, is a possible speaker.

Marion reported that a new printer had to be found for the Mississippi Kites, due to the closure of the MSU printing service. Therefore the cost was higher for the last two issues. She is considering changing it to a larger size paper in order to make the inclusion of charts easier and also to see if it would cut the costs of the printing since there would be fewer pages. She will check further into the feasibility of changing the format and discuss more with the board at the next meeting. The meeting was then adjourned.

Submitted by Martha Swan
MOS Secretary

Species List
Fall MOS Meeting-St. Catherine Creek NWR, Natchez
August 13 – 15, 2010

Canada Goose	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Barn Swallow
Wood Duck	Western Sandpiper	Carolina Chickadee
Mottled Duck	Least Sandpiper	Tufted Titmouse
Blue-winged Teal	Pectoral Sandpiper	Carolina Wren
Wild Turkey	Stilt Sandpiper	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
American White Pelican	Short-billed Dowitcher	Eastern Bluebird
Neotropic Cormorant	Wilson's Phalarope	Northern Mockingbird
Double-crested Cormorant	Least Tern	Brown Thrasher
Anhinga	Forster's Tern	European Starling
Great Blue Heron	Rock Pigeon	Northern Parula
Great Egret	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Yellow Warbler
Snowy Egret	Mourning Dove	Yellow-throated Warbler
Little Blue Heron	Inca Dove	Pine Warbler
Tricolored Heron	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	American Redstart
Cattle Egret	Great Horned Owl	Prothonotary Warbler
Green Heron	Barred Owl	Kentucky Warbler
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Common Nighthawk	Common Yellowthroat
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Chimney Swift	Hooded Warbler
White Ibis	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Summer Tanager
White-faced Ibis	Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Towhee
Roseate Spoonbill	Red-headed Woodpecker	Chipping Sparrow
Wood Stork	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Cardinal
Black Vulture	Downy Woodpecker	Blue Grosbeak
Turkey Vulture	Pileated Woodpecker	Indigo Bunting
Mississippi Kite	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Painted Bunting
Northern Harrier	Acadian Flycatcher	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-shouldered Hawk	Great Crested Flycatcher	Common Grackle
Broad-winged Hawk	Eastern Kingbird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Loggerhead Shrike	Baltimore Oriole
Semipalmated Plover	White-eyed Vireo	House Sparrow
Killdeer	Yellow-throated Vireo	
Black-necked Stilt	Red-eyed Vireo	
Spotted Sandpiper	Blue Jay	Species Total: 104
Solitary Sandpiper	American Crow	
Greater Yellowlegs	Fish Crow	
Willet	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	
Lesser Yellowlegs	Cliff Swallow	

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FINANCIAL REPORTS
FEBRUARY 2010- July 2010
SUBMITTED BY JAN DUBUISSON, MOS TREASURER

INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT

INCOME

Dues	\$970.00
Interest	\$164.65
Donations	<u>\$113.00</u>

TOTAL INCOME **\$1,247.65**

EXPENSES

Newsletter- One Issue	\$214.91
Winter Meeting Expenses	(\$309.33)
Mississippi Kites- Dec 2007	\$321.21
Records Committee Supplies	\$403.98
Donations	\$500.00
Dues	<u>\$100.00</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$1230.77**

NET PROFIT **\$16.88**

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Checking Account	\$3,270.65
Savings Account	\$8,914.62
Certificate of Deposit	\$3,388.33
Coffey Endowment (Restricted)	<u>\$15,000.00</u>

TOTAL ASSETS **\$30,573.60**

NET WORTH **\$30,573.60**

