
Mississippi Ornithological Society



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

Volume 57 Number 2

NEWSLETTER

September 2012

**2012 MOS FALL MEETING
September 28-30
Leroy Percy State Park
Washington County, MS**

LOCATION: Leroy Percy State Park is the oldest of the MS state parks. It is characterized by artesian springs, cypress trees, and ancient oaks dripping with Spanish moss. Leroy Percy is the only state park featuring a wildlife preserve. Several excellent birding areas are located near the park, including Lake Washington, Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge, and many Delta catfish ponds. Both Friday and Saturday evening activities will be held at the Lodge meeting room in the park. As usual, advanced registration will be required for both nights' activities. The registration fee covers costs for a meal and use of the meeting room on Friday evening. The Saturday evening banquet fee includes a full meal and the use of the meeting room. Those staying at the park need to provide their own breakfast food. Everyone needs to bring snacks for Saturday lunch because there are no fast food places near the field trip areas. Please fill out the registration form on the last page and mail it along with your fees to Jan Dubuisson in time to reach her no later than **September 14**.

ACCOMMODATIONS: There are a limited number of cabins at the park. Contact the park for details and availability at 662-827-5436 or www.mdwfp.com. Greenville, MS has several motels within 18 miles of the park: Hampton Inn at 662-335-7515; Econo Lodge at 662-378-4976; and Days Inn at 662-334-1818

FRIDAY EVENING - SEPTEMBER 28

- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Social Hour and Hamburger Plate
- 7:00-7:30 p.m. Plans for Saturday and Sunday field trips
- 7:30 p.m. Board Meeting

SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 29

- 6:45 a.m. Meet in front of Lodge for field trip
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Banquet in meeting room at Lodge
- 8:00 -8:30p.m. Business Meeting and Species Tally
- 7:30 p.m. Speaker—Dr. Paul Hamel will speak about netting/banding data that Ed Alexander and his son kept over the last 40 years.

SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 30

- 6:45 p.m. Meet in front of Lodge for field trip

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Paul Hamel is a research wildlife biologist for the USDA-Forest Service working out of the Stoneville office. His current focus is the biology of the Cerulean Warbler involving several study areas, multiple approaches and geographic information for analysis of the distribution and abundance of this species in the MS Alluvial Valley. Other major research interests involve impact of forest management and landscape processes on biology, conservation, and management of neotropical migratory birds, inventory and monitoring for neotropical migrants and other nongame birds, and the impact of forest management on birds and other animals.

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@freelists.org
www.mos.org.msstate.edu

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.

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	

The President's Corner
By Nancy Madden
MOS President

CHANGES-That is what I am thinking about as I write this article. A slate of officers for the upcoming year will be presented to all members at the Fall meeting. An organization is only viable with good leadership and participating members.

CHANGES-Summer to Fall migration is already underway as I read observations submitted to MSBIRD. Shorebirds are winging their way south from the Arctic tundra. Masses of purple martins, swallows, chimney swifts and egrets have formed and started their journeys to southern wintering grounds. It is wonderful to see all the young hummers coming into our yards as well as hearing the zzzt of yellow warblers. All seems well with the world as we observe these time honored voyages of our feathered friends.

CHANGES-Perhaps now is the time for all of us to participate in some of the "citizen scientist" surveys such as Feeder Watch, Great Backyard Bird Count, chimney swift counts or simply place our observations on MSBIRD and EBIRD. We should not be afraid to submit what we see and ask questions. Life is a learning experience. We are blessed in MS with some excellent resource people who are very willing to give of their time and expertise to aid fellow birders to grow in knowledge and enjoy learning.

September 28, 29 and 30 MOS will be meeting at Leroy Percy State Park near Hollandale. This would be a great time to make a CHANGE and come join in the fun.

See you there.

Minutes of the MOS Board and Business Meetings May 2012

The MOS Board met on Friday, May 4, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at J.P. Coleman State Park, Pickwick Lake. Present were Nancy Madden, Margaret Copeland, Gene & Shannon Knight, Claire English, Marion Schiefer, and Martha Swan.

Nancy announced that Jan Dubuisson would be arriving later with the Financial Report and issues relating to the Yellow Rail research sponsorship.

The first item for discussion was the move of the website, as agreed to at the Fall 2011 meeting. Claire English has set up a temporary page on her personal account, including all the information now on the site at MSU. Initial research indicates MOS can rent a site for a minimum of \$156 per year for 25 gigabytes of storage space and other features and services. Gene requested that the new MOS website include the availability of immediate reporting of rare bird sightings, which would impact the web-hosting platform capabilities required for the new site. The reports would still be reviewed by the Records Committee before becoming official. Marion moved that the board authorize up to \$250 per year initially to set up the new website. Margaret seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. It was mentioned that it might be necessary to hire outside help to set up certain features. The name of the site was discussed, and it was agreed that naming the new MOS website "msornithologicalsociety" would be a possible choice.

Next, Nancy reported that Tom Pullen talked to Libby Hartfield about getting an MOS representative on the MPB radio program "Creature Comforts" to plug MOS and get some publicity. The next question was, who would be the representative? Margaret suggested Ken Hackman. Marion agreed to contact him, with Tom Pullen and Mary Stevens Stripling as other possibilities.

The need for an update of the MOS pamphlet came up at the last meeting, but no action has been taken. Marion will check with Mary Stripling on this matter as well, since Mary was involved in the publication of the previous version.

Margaret brought up the need to dispose of large quantities of back issues of "The Mississippi Kite", which she is now storing. There were several suggestions of people and places which might want them: Paul Lago at the Biology Dept. at UM, the other state university libraries, and the Wilson Ornithological Society. A perfect, unbound copy of each issue should be retained for future scanning, as well as a few complete (as possible) sets. Margaret moved, and Gene seconded, that the remainder could be disposed of at Margaret's convenience.

At the fall meeting, the board had approved transferring the physical archives of MOS bird records to the UM Library Dept. of Archives and Special Collections. Since then, an opportunity has arisen to store them at the Mississippi Museum of Natural History. Gene has investigated the availability of an appropriate cabinet, which MOS will need to purchase. Margaret moved that we approve storage at the Museum and authorize up to \$400 for purchase of the cabinet. Shannon seconded, and the motion passed.

Martha reported that the transfer of Missbird from UM to Freelists had gone smoothly. The UM IT Dept. has provided the archives of the previous list on a 4GB zip drive. Anyone wanting a copy may contact Martha.

Marion stated that the next issue of "The Mississippi Kite" will be an Index to the previous 10 years, in keeping with past practice.

Nancy stated that we needed a Nominating Committee for a new slate of officers to be presented at the next meeting. Shannon volunteered and Martha agreed to help her.

Business meeting Saturday, May 5

Following dinner at the Homestead Restaurant in Iuka, Gene Knight conducted the species tally for the day, which totaled 100. 7 more species were added on Sunday bringing the weekend total to 107 sp.

Jan Dubuisson asked members to review a contract which MSU has asked MOS to sign in connection with the Yellow Rail research project. MOS had agreed to help fund with a \$5,000 grant. She was concerned with some of the wording which did not seem to accurately represent the role of MOS in the project and prevented MOS from publishing the results in "The Mississippi Kite", as had been promised. Dana Swan, MOS member and attorney agreed to examine the document and make recommendations.

The meeting then adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Martha Swan
MOS Secretary

Species List
J.P. Coleman SP, Tishomingo SP, Paden Overlook, and Bay Springs Lake
MOS Spring Meeting 4-6 May 2012
107 species

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

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FINANCIAL REPORTS
SEPTEMBER 2011-APRIL 2012
SUBMITTED BY JAN DUBUISSON, MOS TREASURER

INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT

INCOME

Dues	\$490.00
Interest	<u>\$66.57</u>

TOTAL INCOME **\$ 556.57**

EXPENSES

Newsletter Expenses	\$177.15
Spring Meeting Expenses	\$ 40.00
Fall Meeting Expenses	\$104.00
Mississippi Kites- Printing 1 Issue	\$435.49
Records Committee Supplies	\$294.72
Bank Charges	<u>\$ 10.00</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$ 1,061.36**

NET PROFIT **(\$504.79)**

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Checking Account	\$2,223.15
Savings Account	\$9,045.80
Certificate of Deposit	\$3,574.52
Coffey Endowment (Restricted)	<u>\$15,000.00</u>

TOTAL ASSETS **\$29,843.47**

NET WORTH **\$29,843.47**

FROM THE FIELD (SPRING/SUMMER 2012)

As spring 2012 got started 2 of the rare winter species lingered into April. The Pontotoc Co. **Calliope Hummingbird** was last seen on 3 April and the Lafayette Co. **Spotted Towhee** on 9 April. The record warm temperatures across the lower 48 states for the first 3 months of the year were 6 degrees higher than average. Trees foliated, flowers bloomed, and insects flourished in the early spring temps all the way to the Canadian border. No wonder! The birds didn't have a reason to linger feeding in the south as there was plenty of early food already waiting for them in the north. Many northbound migrants moved through MS virtually undetected making spring migration uneventful. Some rarities were found nevertheless. A **Bell's Vireo** was photographed on 27 April in DeSoto Co. at Bass Landing west of Walls. On 6 May a single **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was spotted in Lowndes Co. 4 **Neotropic Cormorants**, 4 **Mottled Ducks**, and 28 **Roseate Spoonbills** were seen in Adams Co. at St. Catherine Creek NWR on 17 May. All these species are rare at this time of the year. Could the Mottled Ducks be nesting? After all it is a coastal breeder! A singing **Connecticut Warbler** was heard singing on 20 May at Coldwater River NWR in Tallahatchie Co. Possibly the same male **Shiny Cowbird** seen this winter was again spotted visiting the same feeders in Hancock Co. It was seen and photographed by many from 23 May through 7 July. Along with the **Shiny Cowbird** were several **Bronzed** and **Brown-headed Cowbirds**. A pair of **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** found in Lowndes Co. on 18 June were seen for a week or more. This pair was less than 50 miles (as the crow flies) from the single seen on 6 May!!! **Grasshopper Sparrows** were hard to find this summer but a singing male was heard, seen and photographed in early June through the 23rd in Clay Co. **Black-necked Stilts** away from the delta and coast are a good find. On 6 July 6 were seen on Grenada Lake in Yalobusha Co. **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** continue with their range expansion up through the MS River delta. In June and July adults with broods were seen in DeSoto Co. and an adult going in a Wood Duck box in Tallahatchie Co. The 4th yr. **Great Black-backed Gull** that was last seen in January has possibly reappeared in Harrison Co. on 7 July. A large number of **Lark Sparrows** (11 adults and juveniles) were seen on an 11 mile loop in Monroe Co. on 8 July. A large number of **A. Avocets** (193) were found on 20 July in Sunflower Co. On 22 July a pair of **Ruddy Ducks** were in both Tunica and Quitman Cos. The **Shiny Cowbird** in Hancock Co. disappeared in early July and then a male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** joined several fledgling **Bronzed Cowbirds** on 21 July. Migrant warblers are a tough find in July and August so a female **Black-throated Green Warbler** on 28 July in Lee Co. and a male on 5 Aug. in Lafayette Co. were good finds. On 29 July courting **Inca Doves** (plus 2) were spotted not far from the 2011 nesting site in Tallahatchie Co. A single **A. Flamingo** was seen and photographed on 6 August on Horn Island, Jackson Co. by the Park Ranger. 4-5 **Swallow-tailed Kites** were seen on 7-11 August with 12's of **Mississippi Kites** feeding over a field in Clay Co. A **Western Kingbird** was present 11-12 August while watching the feeding Kites.

LOOKING AHEAD----Our Spring 2013 meeting will be held at Holly Springs/Oxford on April 26-28. There will be field trips to Wall Doxey State Park, Audubon's Strawberry Plains, and Sardis Lake. Join us for good birding, good fellowship, and good food at the famous Annie's Restaurant in Holly Springs. More information will be forthcoming in our Spring Newsletter.

A BROWN WHAT?!

By Shannon Knight

Our good birding friend, Jeff Wilson of Memphis, called us on Friday, August 10, to tell us about a Brown Booby seen on Norrell Lake just southwest of Little Rock. Gene said "A BROWN WHAT!!" Gene found directions on the Arkansas Listserve. We were hesitant about making the long trip in a day but as we thought more about this bird being a Life bird for us and that we may never get this chance again, we HAD to go!

We were up at 4:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 12, gulped down a few cups of coffee so that we could function, and then headed out to Little Rock. We arrived at Lake Norrell and the Martin's house around 11:00 a.m. It was really a beautiful area, hilly with huge stony outcroppings along the banks of the 200 acre lake.

We signed the guest book, also looking to see who all had already been there to see the Booby. We were so excited about seeing the bird since it was reportedly easily accessible. As we began the trek down the steep stony steps leading to the dock where it had been seen, we were greeted by a dozen birders who were looking straight at the Booby which by now had been identified as an adult female! We got great looks for a few minutes but several others came down and the bird flew off down the lake. We watched her for a while, dipping and soaring around the lake.

One of the birders had a friend who lived nearby on the lake, so he called him to come take all of us out on his pontoon boat to get closer looks at the Booby. It didn't take long for her to come back and rest on the roof of one of the close-by docks. She was so beautiful and so different that she took our breath away. One of the birders lived several miles away and had an adult male Rufous Hummingbird so we stopped by for a quick look—a real treat! We stayed until 1:00 p.m. and arrived back home around 6:00 p.m. Whew!! What a whirlwind trip! We were totally exhausted but so happy that we went. What a wonderful bird! It was definitely worth the extra effort.

WELCOME NEW MOS MEMBERS

Nancy Donald

Jason Hoeksema

Nick Lund

Dr. Wilma Mitchell

MOS SEPTEMBER 2012 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	\$15.00 per person	___ Person (s) X	\$15.00 =	\$ _____
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 September 14.

Dues are payable in January of each year. Check mailing label for your dues status.

**Mississippi Ornithological Society
79 Hwy 9W
Oxford, MS 38655**