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# Mississippi Ornithological Society



Volume 59 No. 1

## NEWSLETTER

April 2014

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### 2014 MOS SPRING MEETING

April 4-6

### MS GULF COAST

The Spring MOS Meeting will be held on the MS Gulf Coast. Both Friday and Saturday events will be held at the MS State Coastal Research and Education Center (CREC) located at 1815 Popp's Ferry Road, Biloxi, MS 39532. There will be a Friday night gathering of MOS members at the Center starting at 5:30 pm accompanied by light food and refreshments. At 6:30 pm Jason Hoeksema will speak about the newly formed shorebird organization "Delta Wind Birds". The program will be open to the public. Field trips on Saturday will include the new Infinity Center Trail and Logtown in Hancock County. Field trips on Sunday to DeSoto National Forest for Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman's Sparrow and others to be discussed on Saturday night.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**-lodging and other visitor's information may be found on the internet at [www.gulfcoast.org](http://www.gulfcoast.org)

**DIRECTIONS TO CREC:** Take I-10 east from Hwy 49 and then take exit 44 and merge onto Cedar Lake Road. Go 0.6 miles to the second light and turn right onto Popp's Ferry Road. 0.3 miles to CREC is located on the left or south side of the road. Parking and entrance is in the back of the building. NOTE: This is also the same entrance for the High School.

#### FRIDAY EVENING – April 4

5:30-6:30 p.m. Social Hour – at CREC with sandwiches and cookies-discussion on Saturday field trips.  
6:30-7:00 p.m. Program: Jason Hoeksema- Delta Wind Birds  
7:00-8:00 p.m. Board Meeting

#### SATURDAY – April 5

7:15 a.m. Meet at MS Welcome Center in Hancock County, Exit 2 off I-10 for birding the new Infinity Center Trail and Logtown area  
7:00 p.m. Dinner and membership meeting at CREC, Species Tally and bird-sighting reports.  
Program: Mark Woodrey – "The Winter Ecology of Yellow Rails in Coastal Mississippi and Alabama"

#### SUNDAY – April 6

7:00 a.m. Field trips - to be determined at Saturday night meeting

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Dr. Mark Woodrey is a Coastal Ecologist at the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi, Mississippi. He is also the Research Coordinator at the NOAA/Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) in Moss Point, Mississippi. He received his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Southern Mississippi, where he studied fall bird migration in coastal Alabama. Mark has extensive background developing monitoring programs and conducting avian conservation biology research. In addition to his recent focus on marsh bird research, including monitoring and ecological studies of Yellow Rails, he has studied a variety of bird groups, including colonial beach-nesting birds, grassland birds, and breeding birds of bottomland hardwood forests. He continues to promote the use of science-based information from his lab to support local, regional and national bird conservation plans, allowing for more informed and effective natural resource management decisions.

**MOS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESIDENT:** Tom Pullen  
**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Ken Hackman  
**SECRETARY:** Martha Swan  
**TREASURER:** Jan Dubuissou  
**PAST PRESIDENT:** Nancy Madden  
**MISSISSIPPI KITE EDITORS:** Margaret Copeland, Marion Schiefer, and Nick Winstead  
**MOS NEWSLETTER EDITORS:** Gene and Shannon Knight

**MOS ON THE WEB**

[MISSBIRD@freelists.org](mailto:MISSBIRD@freelists.org)  
<http://www.mississippiornithologicalsociety.com/>

**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](mailto:gsknight@hughes.net)  
**Thanks for your help.**

**MOS MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES:**

- \_\_\_ Junior (14 and under) \$5 yr.
- \_\_\_ Student (15 and older) \$10 yr.
- \_\_\_ Individual \$25 yr.
- \_\_\_ Family \$35 yr.
- \_\_\_ Subscribing (Libraries) \$15 yr.
- \_\_\_ Sustaining \$50 yr.
- \_\_\_ Life \$350 yr.

**DUES ARE DUE**

**And payable in January of each year. Send check to: Jan Dubuissou, 22481 Glad Acres, Pass Christian, MS 39571**

**President's Corner**

**By Tom Pullen**  
**MOS President**

Well, it has been a long, cold, wet, and sometimes icy winter! I don't know about you but I am anxious for spring to arrive. I used to say that spring arrives in Central Mississippi the first week in February. This year has proven me wrong! As I write this during mid-February, there are very few harbingers of spring to be noted. Yes, the buds are beginning to swell on the winged elm trees, a few daffodils buds are beginning to show, and the first reports of purple martins are showing up on missbird, but there is little else to indicate that spring is close at hand. But we all know how rapidly things can change if we get a week or two of warm weather in late February or early March. The snowy owl that was recently sighted near Rolling Fork could decide that Mississippi is not the Arctic after all! So, we can all look forward to the spring meeting down on the Mississippi Gulf Coast where, by early April, spring should be well underway and migrating birds around for all to see! The Coast folks are planning for some great field trips and we can look forward to hearing Mark Woodrey educate us about Yellow Rails. I encourage everyone who can to attend the upcoming meeting. I hope to see you there.

**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](mailto:gsknight@hughes.net)

## **Minutes of the MOS Board and Business Meeting 21 September 2013**

Friday evening's meeting was held at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson. Following a social hour with sandwiches, members met along with many patrons of MMNS. Following a welcome by Tom Pullen, Gene Knight presented MOS's Tucker Award to Bob and Martha Sargent, who were unable to be present due to illness. Then Fred Bassett gave a fascinating and entertaining program entitled "Southeastern Hummingbirds – a lot more than you might think."

### **BOARD MEETING**

The MOS Board gathered at the Halpino Lodge in Tara Wildlife at 5:00 pm. Present were Tom Pullen, President; Martha Swan, Secretary; Jan Dubuisson, Treasurer; Nick Winstead and Margaret Copeland, Mississippi Kite co-editors; and Gene Knight, Newsletter co-editor. Also present were guests Jason Hoeksema, J.R. Rigby, and Ruth Pullen. Jan distributed the most recent financial report, which was accepted. She also presented a tentative budget for next year. Publication of the Mississippi Kite is working on getting caught up, lacking the December 2011, December 2012, and July 2013 issues. The latest issue published will be sent to new members. Nick will start scanning old issues and will supply the digital copies to Claire to put on the website.

We need a welcome letter for new members to include in a packet with a checklist, tentative schedule, and latest MS Kite. Jason offered to draft a letter. Nick will check with MMNS to see if MOS can use their address as a permanent address on our letterhead, brochure etc. (This was later agreed to and approved by the Board). Ken was a guest on the radio program "Creature Comforts" on MPB, giving MOS a little publicity. Another appearance is needed for him to provide more information about MOS. He is also working on a new brochure. MOS intended to send a letter supporting "Teaming with Wildlife" but was unable to do so due to the brief timeframe. We discussed the status of Audubon's Great River Birding Trail and decided that Tom should send a letter to Jay Woods with copies to his bosses, making an inquiry about the status of the trail and Audubon's plans (if any) to re-establish the trail on the Internet.

Plans for the Spring 2014 meeting were discussed. The location will be somewhere on the coast, and Mark Woodrey will be speaking on the Yellow Rail research at GBNER supported financially by MOS. He and others will be contacted to help organize the meeting. Pelican Landing in Moss Point was suggested as a meeting place. We agreed to go ahead and vote on the proposed changes in membership categories at the membership meeting tonight, without including the fees, which can be set by the Board.

Nick agreed to draft a constitutional amendment to add the position "Web Coordinator" to the MOS Board. Responsibility for the Missbird List Administrator can be included in this position. We discussed the tentative budget for 2014. Various ideas were mentioned for increasing revenue and trimming costs. Jan and Margaret will work on a proposal to make meeting registration charges cover meeting expenses.

Matt Smith has been proposed as the speaker for the Fall 2014 meeting. Jason and J.R. offered suggestions on recruiting new members. They are also considering setting up a non-profit to raise money to continue the shorebird habitat incentives which were started by money from the BP settlement, but no longer funded. Jason will send a proposal to Tom. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

### **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by the President. The minutes were read and approved. Mary Stevens Stripling, MOS's representative to the Mississippi Wildlife Federation's Board, reported on the organization's recent activities, including opposition to the One Lake proposal (damming the Pearl River), and efforts to enhance non-consumptive use of Wildlife Management Areas. We should contact Ed Penny at MSDWFP if we have suggestions on how to make WMA's more birder-friendly. Tom reported on the discussions of the Board. The proposed changes to membership categories were voted on and approved: Individual, Family, Life, Sustaining, Library, Student (15+), and Junior (14 & under – new category). The Senior category is eliminated. Gene conducted the species tally, which came to 100. More were added on Sunday (total 120 species). The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Submitted by Martha Swan  
MOS Secretary

Species List  
 2013 MOS FALL MEETING  
 September 20-22  
 Jackson, Vicksburg, and MS River Delta Areas

|                           |                           |                                   |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Canada Goose              | Lesser Yellowlegs         | Barn Swallow                      |
| Wood Duck                 | <b>Hudsonian Godwit</b>   | Carolina Chickadee                |
| Gadwall                   | Sanderling                | Tufted Titmouse                   |
| Mallard                   | Semipalmated Sandpiper    | White-breasted Nuthatch           |
| Mottled Duck              | Western Sandpiper         | Brown-headed Nuthatch             |
| Blue-winged Teal          | Least Sandpiper           | Carolina Wren                     |
| Northern Shoveler         | Pectoral Sandpiper        | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher             |
| Ring-necked Duck          | Stilt Sandpiper           | Eastern Bluebird                  |
| Ruddy Duck                | Dowitcher sp.             | Swainson's Thrush                 |
| Pied-billed Grebe         | Wilson's Phalarope        | American Robin                    |
| Wood Stork                | Black Tern                | Gray Catbird                      |
| Double-crested Cormorant  | Common Tern               | Northern Mockingbird              |
| Anhinga                   | Forster's Tern            | Brown Thrasher                    |
| American White Pelican    | Rock Pigeon               | European Starling                 |
| Great Blue Heron          | Eurasian Collared-Dove    | Blue-winged Warbler               |
| Great Egret               | Mourning Dove             | Black-and-white Warbler           |
| Snowy Egret               | Yellow-billed Cuckoo      | Common Yellowthroat               |
| Little Blue Heron         | Great Horned Owl          | Hooded Warbler                    |
| Tricolored Heron          | Barred Owl                | American Redstart                 |
| Cattle Egret              | Common Nighthawk          | Magnolia Warbler                  |
| Green Heron               | Chimney Swift             | Yellow Warbler                    |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Pine Warbler                      |
| White Ibis                | Belted Kingfisher         | Eastern Towhee                    |
| White-faced Ibis          | Red-headed Woodpecker     | Chipping Sparrow                  |
| Roseate Spoonbill         | Red-bellied Woodpecker    | Summer Tanager                    |
| Black Vulture             | Downy Woodpecker          | Northern Cardinal                 |
| Turkey Vulture            | Hairy Woodpecker          | Rose-breasted Grosbeak            |
| Bald Eagle                | Pileated Woodpecker       | Blue Grosbeak                     |
| Red-shouldered Hawk       | Eastern Wood-Pewee        | Indigo Bunting                    |
| Red-tailed Hawk           | Least Flycatcher          | Painted Bunting                   |
| American Kestrel          | Eastern Kingbird          | Red-winged Blackbird              |
| Peregrine Falcon          | Loggerhead Shrike         | Eastern Meadowlark                |
| Purple Gallinule          | White-eyed Vireo          | Common Grackle                    |
| Common Gallinule          | Yellow-throated Vireo     | Brown-headed Cowbird              |
| American Coot             | Blue-headed Vireo         | House Finch                       |
| American Golden-Plover    | Red-eyed Vireo            | House Sparrow                     |
| Semipalmated Plover       | Blue Jay                  |                                   |
| Killdeer                  | American Crow             | <b>Species Total: 120</b>         |
| Black-necked Stilt        | Fish Crow                 |                                   |
| American Avocet           | Tree Swallow              | <b>Species in Bold are Review</b> |
| Spotted Sandpiper         | N. Rough-winged Swallow   | <b>Species</b>                    |
| Greater Yellowlegs        | Bank Swallow              |                                   |

**MBRC Annual Meeting Report**  
**11 January 2014**  
**Gene Knight, MBRC Chair**

The Mississippi Ornithological Society's Records Committee recently met in Jackson for their Annual Meeting. Gene Knight, MBRC Chair called for a Special Election to replace Jake Walker who is currently living in Ontario. All Members present elected Jason Hoeksema of Oxford to replace the vacancy with a majority vote.

## William Dewey McGehee

William Dewey McGehee, 74, of Natchez, passed away peacefully while surrounded by his loving family on 26 December 2013. Bill was a long-time member of MOS serving as President for one term. An American Veteran who graduated from Louisiana State University, Mr. McGehee went on to a long and distinguished career with Aetna, spending 30 years in the Hartford Home Office before retiring to Natchez in 2000. A Master Gardener, avid chef, staunch Audubon Enthusiast, and devoted History buff; he devoted his retirement years dedicating his time and energy to many local civic and nature conservancy organizations, including the Natchez Opera Guild, the Franklin County Museum, Friends of St. Catherine Creek Refuge, Auburn Garden Club, Mississippi Ornithological Society and Scottish Heritage Society.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Elaine Gelbard**  
**Gaynell Perry**

**Tom & Dorothy Howorth**  
**Mardi Russell**

**Stewart Nielsen**  
**Brenda Teague**

### FROM THE FIELD (FALL 2013-WINTER 2013-14)

Gene Knight, MBRC Chair

The fall season started out with a bang and a 1<sup>st</sup> State Record when a **Brown Booby** was photographed (possibly injured) on West Ship Island, Harrison Co., on 30 August. **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** made a statement this fall with a immature bird at Bass Landing, DeSoto Co. on 9 September; 3 immatures on 15 September in Tunica Co.; and 3 immature males were seen at Ansley, Hancock Co. on 22 September. Also on 15 September adult and juvenile **Cave Swallows** were photographed in Tunica Co. for a 1<sup>st</sup> N MS record. A **Hudsonian Godwit** was photographed on 21 September at Phillips Catfish Complex, Yazoo Co. Oktibbeha Co. had their 1<sup>st</sup> **Lesser Black-backed Gull** when a 1<sup>st</sup> cycle bird was seen on 24 September at Oktibbeha Co. Lake. A **Brown Pelican**, rare anywhere away from the gulf coast was seen from 9 October – 5 November at the south end of Sardis Lake, Panola Co. On 25 October an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was present at Ansley, Hancock Co. A single **Groove-billed Ani** was in Kiln, Hancock Co. on 30 November. The “**scoter winter**” got started early on 31 October with a single **Surf f/imm** at Oktibbeha County Lake and 4 f/imm **Surfs** and an imm **Black** on 3 November at the same site. A single f/imm **Surf** was seen at Pat’s Bluff, Sardis Lake, Panola Co. on 8 December. The next day, 9 December, at Lower Lake, Sardis Dam, Panola Co. 3 **Surfs**, 3 **White-wings**, and 1 **Black** (all f/imms) were seen by many birders as they remained for 10 days!!! A first for just about any lake in MS!!! At that same time and location an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was spotted and was seen into February. This winter started early and continued well into 2014 and proved to be the coldest in many years with snow and ice hitting the entire state at least once during this period. An adult male **Vermilion Flycatcher** was seen on 9 December frequenting the duck boxes at Goose Overlook at Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co. One of this winters coldsnaps seems to have been the demise of this flycatcher as it was found dead on 13 January. December **Franklin’s Gulls** are rare anywhere in MS in the winter. A 1<sup>st</sup> cycle bird was seen at Arkabutla Dam, Tate Co. on 9 December and 2 days later it or another 1<sup>st</sup> cycle bird was at Grenada Dam, Grenada Co. Also on 11 December 2 female **C. Mergansers** were at Enid Lake, Yalobusha Co. On 18 December 5 **Tundra Swans** were in Sunflower Co., 3 were photographed on 20 December, and only 1 was seen there on 21 December. At the Tunica County Landfill a 1<sup>st</sup> cycle **Great Black-backed Gull** was photographed on 18 December. On the Grenada CBC a single **A. Avocet** was a surprise and a 1<sup>st</sup> for the count. It was seen at Graysport Landing, Grenada Lake, Grenada Co. on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December. Also on the 18<sup>th</sup> a single **Inca Dove** was photographed in Shelby, Bolivar Co. A rare find at Enid Lake, Yalobusha Co. on 23 December was a hybrid **Black-headed Gull X Ring-billed Gull** (photos available). An exceptional find on 29 December was a **Sprague’s Pipit** in Panola Co. The bird was flushed from the roadside when it was discovered by its diagnostic call. Many birders have walked the small cropduster runway and have seen two birds at times on into February. The year ended with a female **C. Merganser** at the south end of Arkabutla Dam, Tate Co. and a 1<sup>st</sup> cycle **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at the Tunica County

Landfill. A **Calliope Hummingbird** was first seen on 3 January and is still present in late February in Biloxi, Harrison Co. More extreme winter temperatures brought more goodies. On 2 & 11 January an adult **Laughing Gull** was seen at Enid Dam, Yalobusha Co. The “scoter winter” now turns into “**White-winged Scoter Winter**”. An adult male at Sardis Dam, Panola Co. found on 4 January continued into February. On 8 January another adult male was at Columbus Lake, Lowndes Co. And on 9 January 3 f/imms were at White’s Creek Lake, north of Eupora, Webster Co. On 17 January there were 2 adult males and 1 f/imm at Sardis Lake, Panola Co. Also on 17 January a single was on a pond on Section Line Rd., Columbus, Lowndes Co. Rare in N MS was a single **Eared Grebe** at Sardis Dam, Panola Co. on 7 January. Oktibbeha County Lake hosted the county’s 2<sup>nd</sup> record of **Lesser Black-back Gull** when a 1<sup>st</sup> cycle bird was seen on 11 January. Probably the same **Tundra Swans** (seen on 18 Dec., Sunflower Co.) were spotted again between 6-10 January near the Sprague’s Pipit location in Panola Co. On 8 January a female **C. Merganser** and a **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen at Engineer’s Pt., Sardis Lake, Panola Co. A group of coastal birders conducting their weekly survey at Seaman Road Sewage Lagoons reported seeing and hearing a **Black Rail** on 16 January. A 1<sup>st</sup> cycle **Glaucous Gull** and an alternate plumage **Franklin’s Gull** was photographed at the Tunica County Landfill on 17-28 January. Also on the 17<sup>th</sup> a male **Bullock’s Oriole** was photographed at feeders in Ocean Springs, Jackson Co. The oriole was seen by many and remains on site into February. A **Pacific Loon, Red-throated Loon**, and 80+ **C. Loons** were seen at Bay Springs Lake, Tishomingo Co. on 20 January. A male **Vermilion Flycatcher** was in Hancock Co. on 22 January. A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at Seaman Road Sewage Lagoons, Jackson Co. on 23 January. Another unprecedented record of **Sprague’s Pipit** was photographed on Buck Island Rd., Tunica Co. on 28 -29 January. After viewing the GLGU on 23 January 2 1<sup>st</sup> cycle **Thayer’s Gulls** were seen among the 50+ Herring Gulls. After one of this winter’s coldest days (2-5 degrees) in N MS an adult **Red-throated Loon** and a male **White-winged Scoter** was seen in one of the unfrozen pools in Sardis Lake, Panola Co. on 29 January. Another **Spotted Sandpiper** was found the next day birding the frozen lakes in N MS at Grenada Lake on 30 January. Another **Bullock’s Oriole**, an immature male, was found just north of Vicksburg, Warren Co. on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February and remained into late February. Purple Martins arrive on the MS Gulf Coast on February the 8<sup>th</sup>. Then a **Snowy Owl**, the state’s only 2<sup>nd</sup> record and 1<sup>st</sup> since 1930, was seen and photographed on 10-11 February at Mahannah WMA in Issaquena Co. 2 days later it was photographed 26 miles north near Anguilla, Sharkey Co. A juvenile intermediate phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was photographed on 15-16 February in Tunica Co. Oktibbeha County’s 3<sup>rd</sup> **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, an adult, was seen on 17 February. 2 **Yellow Rails** were captured at the MS Sandhill Crane NWR, Jackson Co. during Yellow Rail surveys on 17 January. On 20 February 6 more f/imms **White-winged Scoters** were at Oktibbeha County Lake.



Jason Hoeksema, DWB President

**Delta Wind Birds** is a new nonprofit organization dedicated to:

- **Habitat:** Partnering with private landowners, especially catfish farmers, to create migratory shorebird habitat
- **Education:** Offering guided field trips and workshops in bird identification and habitat management
- **Research:** Promoting the scientific study of shorebird migration and habitat use with a focus on shorebirds (or “wind birds”) in the Mississippi River Alluvial Valley (or Delta).

#### **Rationale for Delta Wind Birds**

North American shorebirds engage in some of the most arduous migrations in the avian world, and nearly half of all North American shorebird species currently face declining populations. For conservation to be effective for migratory shorebirds, efforts are required at northern breeding grounds, southern wintering areas, and migration stopover locations along the interior, which provide crucial opportunities for rest and refueling during the sometimes epic migrations. As many of these birds may fly a thousand miles nonstop before descending, exhausted for refreshment, survival often depends on readily available habitat and food sources along major migratory routes such as the Mississippi Flyway.

The Delta lies along the eastern edge of the Mississippi Flyway and was historically a vast forested wetland. Agricultural development of the region has dramatically reduced wetland habitat, but much of the modern

agricultural landscape can easily provide attractive stopover habitat for migratory shorebirds, often within the framework of normal agricultural production practices. Furthermore, protected habitat on public lands represents only a very small fraction of the landscape, leaving migratory stopover habitat highly fragmented and likely insufficient for the long-term viability of many North American shorebird species. The key to conservation of long-distance migratory shorebirds, therefore, lies in the development of partnerships with private landowners to provide seasonal migratory habitat within the operation of modern agriculture.

To receive occasional **e-mail alerts** about upcoming Delta Wind Birds events and opportunities to help, please contact them at [dwindbirds@gmail.com](mailto:dwindbirds@gmail.com). Visit Delta Wind Birds on their **website** at [deltawindbirds.org](http://deltawindbirds.org), or on **Facebook** at [facebook.com/delta.wind.birds](https://www.facebook.com/delta.wind.birds). Delta Wind Birds offers discounts on field trip and workshop registration fees to members of MOS, and all proceeds from those events support shorebird habitat creation. The board of directors for Delta Wind Birds currently consists of: Jason Hoeksema (President), J.R. Rigby (Secretary), Wayne Patterson (Treasurer), Gene Knight, Philip Barbour, Nina Rifkind, and Nick Lund.

## MOS ATTENDS FIRST ANNUAL EAGLE FEST

Martha Swan



In September, 2013, MOS sponsored an exhibit table at the First Annual DeSoto Eagle Fest at Arkabutla Lake. Nick Winstead created a very informative and attractive poster about Bald Eagles in Mississippi, illustrated with stunning photos by Bill Stripling. Active eagle nests have increased in the state from none in the early 1970's, to approximately 97 known nests at present. I took some MOS brochures, an assortment of bird books, binoculars, and a spotting scope, which luckily could be set on a group of American White Pelicans on the lake. About 80 people stopped by to chat and look at the information. The two most common questions were "how do you pronounce that big word?" (Ornithological) and "Is there a local group I can go out with to learn about birds?" Nick's poster was very well received – some took pictures of it! Many people knew about the decline and were glad to learn of the successful recovery. Amazingly, most did not know that there were eagles in North MS! They thought you had to go to Reelfoot, and many had done so. In the afternoon, Jason Hoeksema took over hosting the exhibit.

Eagle Fest was designed as an initiative to begin the building process of the ARK, a 154 acre park which already has walking trails in place, and plans to build a nature center as a hub of activity for Wildlife Conservation Education Outreach. It promises to be a multi-faceted jewel as a destination for school field trips, family outings, wildlife enthusiasts and nature seekers. It was an excellent opportunity to increase public awareness of MOS and introduce visitors to birding in general. The ARK is a cooperative effort by the Army Corp of Engineers, Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc., DeSoto County and DeSoto County Greenways to open a new and exciting venue of exploration and adventure destination.

**MOS SPRING 2014 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      | \$18.00 per person | ___ Person (s) X | \$ 18.00 = | \$ _____ |

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 March 22.**

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

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