NEWSLETTER OF THE

#### REVISED: NEW HOTEL INFO!

## MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Ornithological Society

Miśsissippi

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AUGUST 2018

# Ornithologist and Author Scott Weidensaul to Speak at MOS Fall Meeting

Those who attend Saturday evening's banquet of the MOS Fall Meeting will be treated to a presentation by ornithologist and author Scott Weidensaul. Weidensaul celebrates the natural world -- particularly bird

the natural world -- particularly bird migration -- in his research, his writing and his public speaking.



© Bill Ulrich

Weidensaul spearheads a number of major research projects focusing on owls, humingbirds and songbirds. He has written more than two dozen books on natural history, including *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist; *The Ghost with Trembling Wings*, about the search for a species that may or may not be extinct; *Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding*; *The First Frontier*; and the *Peterson Reference Guide to Owls*.

Meeting Details on page 2. Register online (http://www.missbird.org/meetings.htm) or using form on back of this newsletter.

#### Inside This Issue . . .

- MOS Fall Meeting
- President's Corner
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Sights & Sounds of Birding North Mississippi
- Feral Cat at Lady Mary
- Canadian Male Banded Piping Plover Resighted
- White-Eyed Vireo

- MOS Member Photos
- Species List
- Board & Business Meeting Minutes

#### 2018 MOS Fall Meeting -Corinth/Tishomingo -September 21-23, 2018

Register online (http://www.missbird.org/m eetings.htm) or using form on back of this newsletter.

The fall meeting will be held in northern Mississippi based in Corinth with field trips to nearby areas. Field trips on Saturday will be announced at the Friday Meet & Greet but will likely include groups to Tishomingo State Park and J.P. Coleman State Park. The Saturday evening banquet will be held at the Weaver Center in Corinth with special guest speaker Scott Weidensaul.

#### **Accommodations**

A limited block of rooms under the group name "MOS" has been reserved at the following hotel (advance reservations are recommended because of limited availability and better rates). Please be sure to mention that you are with the MOS group both to secure your rate and potentially get MOS some discounts if we reserve enough rooms:

Hampton Inn 2107 US-72

Corinth, MS 38834 Phone: 662-286-5949 Rate: \$109/night

#### **Banquet**

The Weaver Center 101 W Linden St. Corinth, MS 38834 Phone: (662) 286-6051

Meal will be served buffet style and include: grilled salmon and smoked pork tenderloin, whole green beans and cauliflower au gratin, house salad, cheesy garlic biscuits, and blackberry cobbler a la mode.

#### Registration

**DEADLINE: September 10, 2018** 

FEES: \$60/member \$70/nonmember

\$30/student

#### **Schedule**

#### FRIDAY /September 21

3:30 - 5:00 p.m MOS Board/Officers Meeting Holiday Inn Express

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Meet & Greet with Scott Weidensaul Holiday Inn Express

#### SATURDAY/September 22

6:30 - 7:30 a.m.

Breakfast provided in breakfast room for Holiday Inn Express guests.

7:30 a.m.

Field Trips - All field trips will meet in the parking lot of the hotel.

#### **LUNCH On your own**

6:30 p.m. Banquet

Weaver Center, Corinth, MS

7:30 p.m.

Business Meeting & Species Tally Guest Speaker: Scott Weidensaul

#### SUNDAY/September 23

6:30 - 7:30 a.m.

Breakfast provided in breakfast room for Holiday Inn Express guests.

7:30 a.m.

Field Trips will meet in the parking lot of the hotel.

#### President's Corner -Fall 2018

by J. R. Rigby, President, MOS

You love that which you know. You care for that which you love.

A friend recently directed me to an op-ed column in a prominent newspaper that called attention to a growing political constituency for whom the environment is a primary concern. The columnist cited, among other things, a U.S. bird-watching community numbering in the tens of millions. That is a big number. While I don't know the columnist's source, I am certain that this number must be based on a very generous definition of "bird-watcher".

There are many definitions of what might constitute a "bird-watcher". And, if I am being honest, I took momentary exception to any watered-down definition of bird-watcher that would result in the numbers cited by the columnist. I mean, I don't think I would call all those people bird-watchers. There can't be that many people who *really* watch birds. Imposters!

There is a competitive strain of birding, and even, dare I say, sometimes a bit of elitism among birders, be it who finds the best birds, who gets out in the field the most, or who makes the most difficult IDs. I displayed a little of that elitism in my critical response to what constitutes a "bird-watcher". When I quibbled over the definition of "bird-watcher" I was, of course, being too critical, and perhaps missing the most important point.

Regardless of what definition may lie behind the numbers cited in the article, it matters more, I think, whether those tens of millions would self-identify as bird-watchers. At any level of commitment, in a culture increasingly full of entertainment, distraction, advertising, and spectacle, achieving any conscious attention to the observation and identification of birds is a step in the right direction.

The aim of MOS is to foster the conscious appreciation and care of bird populations in Mississippi and the natural communities that sustain them. That appreciation and care begins with individuals. It begins with observation. And it usually begins with a question or two. "That's funny, why are those birds doing that?" or perhaps, "I don't remember ever seeing one of those before. What bird is that anyway?" Observation leads to questions. Questions, if we are lucky, lead to answers. Pretty soon you know something. And then perhaps you also take an interest in the opportunity to observe it again.

Perhaps, if more people knew even just a little about birds, they may also come to love birds just a little. And with a little more love might come a little more care. With a little more care, perhaps populations decline a little less.

I think we have a very open and supportive birding community around the state. I want to reinforce that community here. I encourage all our birders to share their knowledge freely and to cast a wide net in considering who else is among our ranks of Mississippi "bird-watchers." I think it might be a good investment in the future of bird populations.



## The Migratory Bird Treaty Act: Celebrating 100 Years and Counting

by Jill Mastrototaro, Audubon Mississippi's Policy Director

This past July 3<sup>rd</sup> marked the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), one of the oldest wildlife protection laws in the country. Passed in 1918 due to efforts by Audubon and other early conservation leaders, the MBTA codified a treaty the U.S. had signed with Canada in response to the extinction or near-extinction of countless bird species. At the time, many of these birds were hunted for either sport or plumage to satisfy demands of the fashion industry.

Over the last century, the law has saved millions – if not billions – of birds from the impacts of human activities, including those species most at risk. The MBTA is credited with saving countless species from extinction with familiar success stories including the Snowy Egret, Wood Duck, and Sandhill Crane.

However, the MBTA's protections stretch far beyond these exotic-sounding birds to cover more than 1,000 native species, many that Mississippians know and enjoy. These include species such as Cardinals, Robins, and Blue Jays in our backyards, prized waterfowl like Northern Pintail and Blue-winged Teal, Red-tailed Hawks and Great Horned Owls, and Least Terns on our coast that make up one of the country's largest nesting populations.

The MBTA provides substantial economic benefits too. Wildlife watching is one of the fastest-growing tourism sectors in the country. Wildlife tourism in Mississippi generates nearly \$2 billion in tourist spending annually and supports 26,000 jobs across the state.

#### **How the MBTA Works**

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the federal agency responsible for implementing and enforcing the MBTA, which includes setting hunting seasons for waterfowl and other migratory birds based on species populations. The law makes it a crime to "pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, possess, sell, purchase, barter, import, export, or transport" a migratory bird or any of its parts, including nests, eggs and feathers. Anyone wishing to pursue any of these activities is required to secure a special permit from the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

Not only does the MBTA apply to hunters but it has helped reduce avoidable industrial hazards that birds face from oil and gas development, electricity transmission, wind energy production, and more. For example, every year millions of birds are killed by threats such as oil waste pits. The law has provided a vital incentive for industries to adopt practices that reduce these threats, as well as accountability and recovery after tragic events like 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil disaster.

#### **Deepwater Horizon and the MBTA**

This past April marked the 8-year memorial of the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster that took 11 lives and unleashed the worst man-made environmental tragedy in U.S. history. Mississippi's leaders, communities, and businesses continue to demonstrate their resolve by working together to repair the damage it caused to our coast, way of life, and economy.

While most of the attention has been on fines and penalties associated with violations of the Clean Water Act and the Oil Pollution Act, many Mississippians may be surprised to learn that the MBTA was crucial to securing \$100 million in criminal fines from BP for the one million birds killed by the disaster.

USFWS is administering the money through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) to fund projects that restore and conserve wetlands in the Gulf and other places in the U.S., Canada or Mexico, to benefit migratory birds, wildlife and habitat affected by the tragedy.

Unlike most of the other recovery monies, these NAWCA funds can be spent on restoration projects outside the Mississippi Coast and Gulf region. This means these dollars are vital to complement and bolster restoration efforts not only across the Gulf but also on a continental and potentially hemispheric scale – reflecting the range in which many bird species travel throughout their life cycles.

To date, 67 projects totaling almost \$64 million dollars have been funded. Four of the 20 projects funded in the Gulf region are in Mississippi, which total nearly \$4 million dollars. All four projects occur in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley, a region that provides some of our country's richest habitat for millions of migratory birds, wading birds, shorebirds and waterfowl. However, this area has experienced significant wetland loss due to changes in hydrology and conversion to agriculture. The four projects include a mix of efforts on public and private lands to help address some of these challenges.

#### Take Action to Defend the MBTA

Thanks to decades of bipartisan support, the MBTA has successfully navigated numerous attempts to weaken or strip its critical protections. Currently the law is being challenged by the administration to interpret the MBTA in a new way.

In late 2017, the U.S. Department of the Interior issued a legal opinion directing the USFWS to stop holding industries accountable for bird deaths, and legislation in Congress (HR 4239), would make this change permanent. If this new policy had been in effect after the Deepwater Horizon, BP would have avoided accountability for the one million bird deaths it caused and averted paying a \$100 million fine to restore bird habitat.

Audubon is leading a broad effort to safeguard this bedrock law to protect birds for the next century - most recently this has included filing a landmark lawsuit in federal court. Mississippians can help by urging Congress and the Department of the Interior to uphold the law at <a href="https://www.audubon.org/takeaction">www.audubon.org/takeaction</a>.

These efforts aim to protect the MBTA and ensure Mississippians and all Americans can continue to experience the wonder and beauty of birds for generations to come.

Jill Mastrototaro is Audubon Mississippi's Policy Director. She can be reached at <a href="mastrototaro@audubon.org">jmastrototaro@audubon.org</a>. A full version of this article was printed in the Mississippi Wildlife Federation's Summer 2018 Magazine. Project details are available at <a href="http://dwhprojecttracker.org/summary-by-funding-mechanism/">http://dwhprojecttracker.org/summary-by-funding-mechanism/</a>.

Efforts are underway to weaken the MBTA, such as no longer holding industries like BP accountable for the one million bird deaths resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster.

Credit: Audubon



## Sights & Sounds of Birding North Mississippi

by Willa Sanders, Member of Tres Amigas Birding Group with photographs by Mardi Russell

North MS is blessed with a variety of birds and birding habitat. My two retired birding friends and I make an annual pilgrimage in mid-January to see the sandhill cranes who make their appearance in a predictable area of Panola County. What a wondrous experience to hear their rattling voices in mass and view their dancing courtship display while they glean the fields located on Ballentine, Holly Grove, Pride and Curtis Roads. We normally see them in a group of about 300 or more. What a choir!!!



Sandhill cranes

Often in the same area are massive flocks of snow geese that include Ross's, and Greater White Fronted with their gorgeous bright orange legs!!! It is true that the sky turns black when they all decide to change location at the same time – such a magnificent sight! The sound of 10,000 geese honking and moving at the same time causes you to stand with your mouth open like a child amazed.



Brown Booby

Some years we have even experienced those rare gems such as the Brown Booby at Grenada Lake, Sprague's Pipit on Holly Grove Road, Tundra Swans on Pride Road, Le Conte's Sparrow at Sardis Waterfowl Refuge and the California Gull at Enid Lake. The photos we have collected together include guite an array.



Brown Booby

Make an appointment with yourself to schedule a trip to North Mississippi to witness the grandeur of the sandhills and the splendor of the snow geese. Be sure to include the Sardis Lake area which is lush with pelicans, warblers and much more. Trust me, it's worth the trip.

#### Feral Cat at Lady Mary

by Bryan White Biological Science Technician Audubon Mississippi



On the 4<sup>th</sup> of April this year Audubon Mississippi biologists first saw Least Terns returning to their colony at Lady Mary Ave. and Highway 90 in Pass Christian. These birds had used this site before, and it looked like 2018 promised to be a good year for them. Four weeks later, these birds had laid 137 nests in a roped off and posted area. These nests which are usually 1 to 3 eggs take around 21 days to incubate, before fluffy chicks hatch out. The beginning of May hundreds of baby birds were supposed to be hatching at Lady Mary. In the

following weeks however, Audubon began noticing housecat tracks throughout the colony. The tracks showed the feral housecat was checking the nests with eggs, looking for helpless baby birds. During the following colony visits, biologists noticed that most of the baby chicks were missing and decided to deploy an infrared camera on a nest that was due to hatch. The camera documented the housecat checking the nest over the next couple nights, but doing nothing to the eggs. The day the nest hatched however, the feral cat came back

and in front of the camera killed and ate the babies. By the end of May, 1 feral cat had completely decimated the colony. Truly a tragic end to a hard year for birds that migrated over 2,000 miles to breed here.

Recent studies have shown that free-ranging housecats kill 1.3 to 4 billion birds a year in the United States, and are the largest human-caused threat to wildlife.

Additionally, cats have significantly contributed towards 33 modern-day species extinctions such as the Laughing Owl and the

Hawaiian Rail. While these outdoor cats are directly responsible for these wildlife deaths and extinctions, the real root of this problem lays with irresponsible pet ownership. Housecats live the happiest and healthiest lives indoors, away from threats of parasites, wildlife attacks, and vehicle collisions. So please, think twice when you let your cat out. And if you encounter a free-ranging feral cat, try to give them a home and move them inside where they belong, the wildlife will thank you for it!

## Canadian Male Banded Piping Plover Resighted

by Melinda Averhart, Biological Science Technician



Summer 2017 re-band



Banded Piping Plover on Ocean Springs Front Beach, April 2018

While conducting a spring ACBS survey on April 12, 2018 in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, a Canadian male, banded Piping Plover was resighted. The bird was loafing in a sand berm created by a beach raker along the high tide line at Front Beach. The coordinates of the bird were: 30.409088, -88.838610. The band combination was: upper left black flag, lower left blue over orange, upper right metal, and lower right orange over blue. The bird was originally banded as a chick in 2005, by Dr. Cheri Grotto-Trevor with Environment and Climate Change Canada / Government of Canada.

The bird hatched at Coal Mine Lake, Saskatchewan (Missouri Coteau in S SK). Dr. Grotto-Trevor reported that the bird was originally banded with color bands only. In the summer of 2017, the USGS Missouri River Tern and Plover Team re-banded this bird at Lake Oahe near Pollock, South Dakota and added the black flag. This individual's migration totals 1500 miles one way, likely with no stop. It is both exciting and encouraging that we are able to share our Mississippi beaches and provide critical wintering habitat for these endangered species.

## White-eyed Vireo Nest Feeding at Strawberry Plains Nature Center

by Hal Mitchell

While attending a bird banding session for the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) research at Strawberry Plains Nature Center near Holly Springs, MS, we discovered a white-eyed vireo (*Vireo griseus*) nest situated within the banding station (Figure 1).

It was situated approximately 1.5 meters from the ground in a muscadine vine (Vitis rotundifolia).



Figure 1. White-eyed vireo nest at Strawberry Plains Nature Center near Holly Springs, MS, on July 1, 2018

On July 1, 2018, we audio and video recorded the nest for approximately 1 hour. Four nestling feedings and a fecal sac removal were captured during that time and can be viewed at: <a href="https://youtu.be/pwJGiKbZMTO">https://youtu.be/pwJGiKbZMTO</a>. One interesting observation occurred during the first visit when one adult passed food to the other adult to feed the nestlings (Figure 2).



Figure 2. White-eyed vireo adult passing food item to another adult to feed nestlings

### Submitting Articles and Photos for the 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 and/or photographs for possible publication. Some suggestions for articles might be:

- Birding trips in-state, out-ofstate, or out-of-country
- Life bird experiences
- Bird locales or special birding events

Any interesting story about birds or bird behavior Articles: 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. Please email your articles (Word or PDF) and/or photos (jpeg format, at least 180 dpi) to: Ken Hackman, khackman@comcast.net.

Thank you to Holly Cox for this issue's MOS member photos.

## MOS Officers & Board Members

PresidentJ. R. Rigby
Vice PresidentHal Mitchell
Secretary Holly Cox
Treasurer Wayne Patterson
Past President Ken Hackman
Editor, MOS Newsletter Ken Hackman
Editor, The Mississippi Kite
Nick Winstead
Web Committee ChairJ. R. Rigby



Glaucous Gull - Pass Christian Harbor, MS (first sighted 2/24/18)



Smooth-billed Ani - Hiller Park, Biloxi, MS (first sighted 11/4/17)

#### Species List - Mississippi Gulf Coast 2018 MOS Spring Meeting April 27-29

**GEESE, SWANS & DUCKS** 

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

Canada Goose Wood Duck

Blue-winged Teal

Mallard

**Mottled Duck** 

Redhead

**Red-breasted Merganser** 

QUAIL

Northern Bobwhite

**TURKEYS** 

Wild Turkey

**GREBES** 

Pied-billed Grebe

**PIGEONS & DOVES** 

**Rock Pigeon** 

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** 

Inca Dove

White-winged Dove

Mourning Dove

**CUCKOOS & ANIS** 

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

**NIGHTHAWKS & NIGHTJARS** 

Common Nighthawk

Chuck-will's-widow

**SWIFTS** 

**Chimney Swift** 

**HUMMINGBIRDS** 

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** 

**RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS** 

Clapper Rail

Virginia Rail

Sora

Purple Gallinule

Common Gallinule

American Coot

**CRANES** 

Sandhill Crane

**STILTS & AVOCETS** 

Black-necked Stilt

**OYSTERCATCHERS** 

American Oystercatcher

**PLOVERS** 

Black-bellied Plover

**Snowy Plover** 

Wilson's Plover

Semipalmated Plover

**Piping Plover** 

Killdeer

**SANDPIPERS & PHALAROPES** 

**Upland Sandpiper** 

Whimbrel

Marbled Godwit

**Ruddy Turnstone** 

Red Knot

Stilt Sandpiper

Sanderling

Dunlin

**Least Sandpiper** 

White-rumped Sandpiper

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 

**Pectoral Sandpiper** 

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Western Sandpiper

Short-billed Dowitcher

Long-billed Dowitcher

Wilson's Snipe

Spotted Sandpiper

Solitary Sandpiper

Lesser Yellowlegs

Willet

**Greater Yellowlegs** 

Wilson's Phalarope

**GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS** 

Laughing Gull

Herring Gull

Least Tern

Gull-billed Tern

Caspian Tern

. Common Tern

Forster's Tern

Royal Tern

Sandwich Tern

Black Skimmer

**LOONS** 

Common Loon

**CORMORANTS** 

**Double-crested Cormorant** 

**ANHINGAS** 

Anhinga

**PELICANS** 

American White Pelican

**Brown Pelican** 

**BITTERNS & HERONS** 

Least Bittern

Great Blue Heron

**Great Egret** 

**Snowy Egret** 

Little Blue Heron

Tricolored Heron

Reddish Egret

Cattle Egret

Green Heron

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

**IBISES & SPOONBILLS** 

White Ibis

Glossy Ibis

White-faced Ibis

AMERICAN VULTURES

**Turkey Vulture** 

OSPREYS Osprey

KITES, EAGLES & HAWKS Swallow-tailed Kite Mississippi Kite Bald Eagle

Northern Harrier Cooper's Hawk

Red-shouldered Hawk Broad-winged Hawk Red-tailed Hawk

TYPICAL OWLS Barred Owl

WOODPECKERS

Red-headed Woodpecker Red-bellied Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker Northern Flicker Pileated Woodpecker

**CARACARAS & FALCONS** 

Merlin

Peregrine Falcon

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

**SHRIKES** 

Loggerhead Shrike

**VIREOS** 

White-eyed Vireo Yellow-throated Vireo Red-eyed Vireo

JAYS & CROWS Blue Jay American Crow

Fish Cross

Fish Crow

SWALLOWS Purple Martin

Northern Rough-winged

Swallow Cliff Swallow Barn Swallow **TITMICE** 

Carolina Chickadee Tufted Titmouse

**NUTHATCHES** 

Brown-headed Nuthatch

**WRENS** 

Marsh Wren Carolina Wren

**GNATCATCHERS** 

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

**KINGLETS** 

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 

**THRUSHES** 

Eastern Bluebird

Veery

Gray-cheeked Thrush Swainson's Thrush Wood Thrush American Robin

**MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS** 

Gray Catbird Brown Thrasher Northern Mockingbird

**STARLINGS** 

**European Starling** 

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

**House Sparrow** 

FINCHES

House Finch

**NEW WORLD SPARROWS** 

Eastern Towhee Bachman's Sparrow Savannah Sparrow Seaside Sparrow Swamp Sparrow

CHATS, BLACKBIRDS & ALLIES

Yellow-breasted Chat

Bobolink

Eastern Meadowlark
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
Red-winged Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Grackle
Boat-tailed Grackle

WOOD WARBLERS

Ovenbird

Worm-eating Warbler
Louisiana Waterthrush
Northern Waterthrush
Golden-winged Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Swainson's Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Kentucky Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler

American Redstart
Northern Parula
Magnolia Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler

Yellow Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler Black-throated Blue Warbler

Palm Warbler Pine Warbler

Yellow-rumped Warbler Yellow-throated Warbler

Prairie Warbler

**GROSBEAKS & ALLIES** 

Summer Tanager Scarlet Tanager Northern Cardinal

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Blue Grosbeak Indigo Bunting Painted Bunting Dickeissel

## Minutes of the MOS Spring Board Meeting & Business Meeting - April 27 & 28, 2018

submitted by Holly Cox, MOS Secretary

#### **Board Meeting**

The Board of Directors of the Mississippi Ornithological Society met at 5:10 p.m. on Friday, April 27, 2018 at the Pascagoula River Audubon Center in Moss Point. Present were Wayne Patterson, Treasurer and Holly Cox, Secretary.

In the absence of the President, J.R. Rigby and Vice President, Hal Mitchell, Wayne Patterson, the Treasurer, presided. It was decided that the annual Treasurer's report would be given at the fall Board meeting. Wayne mentioned that the checking and both CDs had been moved from the coast bank to a Tupelo branch. Reimbursements for the spring meeting expenses were taken care of. No vote could be made to approve the minutes for the fall 2017 meeting as printed in the spring 2018 newsletter. There was a brief discussion about the MOS Fall 2018 meeting. Due to only two board members being present and there being no agenda, it was agreed that no official decisions for MOS could be made and the meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

On June 29, 2018, via email, all of the MOS Board members voted (with Nick Winstead abstaining) to join in on two letters being sent out by the National Wildlife Federation. The letters proposed our being listed among other organizations as being in favor of the USACE taking over the NEPA and public notice components, extending the review period to 60 days (from 45), and to initiate an external review of the One Lake Project.

#### **Membership Meeting**

MOS members met at the Pascagoula River Audubon Center (PRAC) in Moss Point on Saturday, April 28, 2018. Wayne Patterson, Treasurer, presided over the meeting in the absence of the President and Vice President. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Wayne thanked PRAC for allowing us to use their facilities on Friday evening for the meet and greet and Saturday evening for our membership meeting and banquet. He also thanked Holly Cox for all of her help with the spring meeting. The food was catered by Scranton's in Pascagoula. Wayne then conducted the species tally. The final species total through Sunday was 187. Good reports were given by many members who attended each of the field trips which included Ship Island, Seaman Road Lagoons and the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society's Boneyard Lake rookery field trip. The membership meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Jason Hoeksema introduced the guest speakers, Bob and Lucy Duncan. The Duncans are long-time residents of the Florida panhandle and regular contributors to the birding listservs of Alabama and Florida. Bob Duncan has published booklets on "The Birds of Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa Counties, Florida" as well as "Bird Migration Weather and Fallout". They shared their wealth of experience interpreting the weather when it comes to predicting the migratory behavior of birds along the northern Gulf Coast with great tips, maps, and links to informative web sites.

#### MOS Fall 2018 Meeting Registration Form

Name:	E-Mail
Address:	City, State, Zip:
Telephone:	
Additional Person (s):	
Name:	E-Mail:
Name:	E-Mail:
Registration	
Person (s) X \$ 45.00 = \$_	
Person (s) (student) X \$ 25.00 = \$_	
TOTAL = \$	

Please make check payable to M.O.S. Mail check and registration form to:
Wayne Patterson, MOS Treasurer, 283A CR 501, Shannon, MS 38868

Mail the registration form to reach Wayne no later than September 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