The Fall MOS Meeting will be held in Greenwood, MS, in the east-central Delta. A central theme of the meeting will be migratory shorebirds passing through the Delta, including identification, natural history, and conservation. Field trips will provide opportunities to study 14+ shorebird species (including American Avocets and Black-necked Stilts), thousands of waders (likely including Wood Storks and Roseate Spoonbills), and migrant passerines.

Joining us for the weekend will be world-class bird photographer and shorebird ID expert Kevin Karlson, who will give two lectures and lead interactive field trips. Early Friday evening, we will have a meet & greet reception with Kevin, accompanied by light food and drinks. Afterward, Kevin will present the indoor portion of his shorebird identification workshop.

Saturday birding field trips will include interactive shorebird ID field trips co-led by Kevin, along with additional local field trips looking for waders and passerines. Sites will include Sky Lake, private catfish farms and managed ponds, and nearby Wildlife Management Areas. On Saturday evening, the MOS membership meeting and species tally will take place over dinner, along with a talk by Kevin Karlson on “Birding by Impression,” the approach highlighted in his forthcoming book. Additional birding field trips will take place Sunday morning.

Online registration (and membership sign-up) is available at http://www.mississippiornithologicalsociety.com/FallMeeting.htm. A mail-in form is also available on the last page of this newsletter.

Accommodations — A limited block of rooms at a discounted rate of $89/night (plus tax) has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites (401 Clements St, just south of Hwy 7/82, on the west side of Greenwood) for attendees of the MOS meeting. To take advantage of this special rate, attendees must call the hotel (at 662-455-1885) to make a room reservation by no later than August 18 (and sooner if better — this rate is available on a first-come, first-served basis only), and explicitly request the MOS meeting rate. Field trips will depart from the parking lot of this hotel on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Friday Evening, September 19
3:30-4:30 p.m. MOS Board/Officers’ Meeting (Board Room of Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 401 Clements Street, Greenwood)
4:30-6:30 p.m. Meet & greet with Kevin Karlson, includes sandwiches, dessert, and drinks. MOS members only. (Board Room of Holiday Inn)
6:30-7:30 p.m. Kevin Karlson: “Shorebirds Made Simpler” Indoor Workshop (Meeting room at Jodie Wilson Public Library, 209 N Stone Ave)
7:30 p.m. Discussion of Saturday field trip logistics

Saturday, September 20
7:15 a.m. Meet in parking lot of Holiday Inn for morning field trips.
1:15 p.m. Meet in parking lot of Holiday Inn for afternoon field trips.
6:30 p.m. Dinner, membership meeting, and species tally (Crystal Grill, 423 Carollton Ave.)
7:30 p.m. Program: Kevin Karlson, “Birding by Impression”

Sunday, September 21
7:15 a.m. Field trips, to be determined at the Saturday night meeting, will depart from Holiday Inn parking lot.

Costs:
• Meeting Registration (includes Friday evening talk + Saturday banquet & talk + free field trips on Saturday and Sunday): $35 for MOS member, $40 for non-members
• Friday meet & greet with Kevin Karlson (includes dinner & drinks; MOS members only: $15)
• 1/2-day Saturday Shorebird ID workshop with Kevin Karlson: $15 for MOS members, $20 for non-members

About the Speaker...

Kevin Karlson is an accomplished birder, professional tour leader and wildlife photographer who has published numerous articles on bird identification and natural history for an assortment of magazines, journals, calendars and CD/DVDs. A former photo editor for North American Birds, he wrote the Birder’s ID column for Wild Bird Magazine from 1992-2012. Kevin is a co-author of The Shorebird Guide (Houghton Mifflin Co. 2006) and is completing a new book for the Roger Tory Peterson Reference series at Houghton Mifflin Co. called Birding by Impression: A Different Approach to Knowing and Identifying Birds.

He completed a Shorebird ID App in 2013 for Birdzilla.com called Shorebirds of the United States and Canada, which is available in the Apple Store, and will release a comprehensive Shorebird ID E-Book by the fall of 2014. Kevin also authored three laminated foldout guides for Quick Reference Publishing on raptors of eastern and western North America and waterfowl of North America, and is completing a new guide on shorebirds of North America, due out in the fall of 2014. As the sole ornithologist for Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s DVD Birds of North America, Kevin prepared photos and wrote captions for over 2600 bird images, including over 800 of his own.

Kevin leads a select number of photography and birdwatching tours for other companies, including Sunrise Birding of Connecticut and Wildside Nature Tours, but his own tour company, Jaeger Tours Inc, will be returning to field trip operations in 2015 with a limited number of offerings. Kevin is a regular presence at numerous birding and nature festivals around North America, where he gives keynote presentations and workshops on bird identification and natural history, and leads field trips to a variety of locations. Some of his annual venues include: The Rio Grande Valley Bird Festival in Texas; Galveston, Texas’ Featherfest Bird Festival; Space Coast Bird Festival in Titusville Florida and Cape May’s Annual Spring and Fall Weekends. Kevin also participates as a photography instructor at the prestigious Florida’s Birding and Fotofest in St. Augustine every April.

(Photo by Jean Hoogacker)
MOS Officers and Board Members

President .................................................. Tom Pullen
Vice President ......................................... Ken Hackman
Secretary .................................................. Martha Swan
Treasurer .................................................. Jan Dubuisson
Past President ............................................ Nancy Madden

Mississippi Kite Editors .................... Margaret Copeland, Marion Schiefer, and Nick Winstead

MOS Newsletter Editors ................. Gene and Shannon Knight

MOS Newsletter Design .................. Tom Hoar

ATTENTION ALL MOS MEMBERS:
Digital Newsletter Delivery

In order to cut down on printing and mailing costs of the Newsletter, we are asking any of you who would be willing to receive your copy by email to please contact us at gsKnight@hughes.net. Members who receive issues by email (PDF) will receive a FULL-COLOR version. Due to high printing costs, there can be only limited color in mailed copies. Thanks for your help!

President’s Corner
By Tom Pullen, MOS President

It’s hard to believe that almost two years have passed since I assumed the Office of MOS President. A lot has happened in that time. Although our organization has not grown greatly in number of members during the past two years, it has remained a vibrant organization that continues to adapt to changing times. We are moving fully into the digital age with our enhanced internet presence, we continue developing and carrying out interesting programs and workshops that serve to inform and educate the public and our membership, and interest in the organization seems to be growing statewide. As I step down from the Presidency, I look forward to seeing this trend continue under our next President, our other new officers, and the new Board of Directors.

Plans for our fall shorebird focused meeting are coming along nicely and I hope we have a big turnout for this gathering up in the Delta. Let’s hope the migrants cooperate and we have an opportunity to see and learn about many of these transient visitors to our state. I encourage everyone who can to attend this important and fun event.

As I write this column, I am up in the State of Massachusetts where Ruth and I are temporary residents of the Town of Wendell in the central part of the state (Towns in Massachusetts are sort of like mini-counties in Mississippi). Wendell is like much of Mississippi, sparsely populated and full of wild areas. Instead of deer crossing signs on the roadsides you see moose crossing signs. Wendell is very unlike the eastern part of the state where Boston is located. Living in Wendell and seeing the regard its residents have for their Town and its wildlife and other natural resources makes one appreciate how blessed we are in Mississippi to have so much undeveloped land and bird habitat all around us. We should never take for granted the wildlife and habitat resources of our state and should always be aware of the need to protect and preserve the resources around us. It’s too late to do that is the more crowded parts of Massachusetts but not too late in Mississippi. So I encourage all of you to work diligently in the future to insure that our birds and other wildlife always have abundant habitat to call their home. We must constantly be on the lookout for and oppose ill-advised development schemes that promise to enrich our state with dollars but impoverish us in terms of preserving the richness of natural habitats around us.

Thank you all for what you have done and continue to do for the benefit of birds and our organization. Keep up the good work!

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 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 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.

PHOTOS: Please send images in jpeg format, at least 180dpi, to the email address listed below.

Articles and photos may be sent in any time of the year, but if you would like for 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 and/or photos to:
Gene and Shannon Knight, 79 Hwy 9W, Oxford, MS 38655
662-236-2413 or gsKnight@hughes.net
FROM THE FIELD (Spring/Summer 2014)
Gene Knight, MBRC Chair

To get Spring started there was a single out of season A. Avocet present in Tunica Co. 3-6 Mar. and the 1st A. Golden-Plovers were spotted on the A&D Turf Farm, Lafayette Co. on 5 Mar. Diving ducks were once again the waterfowl highlights this spring as Long-tailed Ducks were seen at White’s Creek Lake, Webster Co., a female on 7 Mar., and 7 males and 2 females at Bay Springs Lake, Tishomingo Co. 9-15 Mar. Also on 9 Mar. at Bay Springs Lake a Pacific Loon lingered. Bronzed Cowbirds continue at Ansley, Hancock Co. when a male was seen on 25 Mar. and continued thru the season. 47 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, 2 Whimbrels, and a Yellow-headed Blackbird were good finds on 3 Apr. on Singing River Island, Jackson Co.

The male Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds that wintered in Harrison Co. lingered into April. Rowan Oak/Bailey’s Woods, Lafayette Co. proved to be a warbler hot spot as 30+ species of warblers were found during spring migration. The highlights were multiple Golden-winged and Wilson’s Warblers, and dozens of Magnolia Warblers. A. Avocets are always a treat in the hills as 3 were seen on 2 May at the Oxford Sewage Lagoon, Lafayette Co. Wilson’s Phalaropes were abundant this spring at Coldwater River NWR. On 3 May 33 were seen Quitman Co. and another 4 were in Tallahatchie Co.

A male Mourning Warbler was seen for 2 days, 4-5 May in Lowndes Co. along the Tenn-Tom Riverway. On 13 May a Bewick’s Wren was an excellent find, Lafayette Co. A very late Vesper Sparrow and a single Ruddy Turnstone were seen at the Oxford Sewage Lagoon, Lafayette Co. on 14 May. 11 Fulvous-Whistling-Ducks were present for a day in Hancock Co. on 16 May along with 5 White-faced Ibis that lingered through 18 May. Willow Flycatchers were present on 17 May in Lee Co. and on 3 June in Clay Co. On 19 May a late Lincoln’s Sparrow was present at Rowan Oak, Lafayette Co.

Again at the Oxford Sewage Lagoon, Lafayette Co. on 21 May, a pair of Black-necked Stilts was a rare find. Warbling Vireos are rare in Clay Co. in the summer so one on 3 June was an excellent find. On 4 June a Pomarine Jaeger, possibly the state’s 6th record, was picked up injured in Harrison Co. It perished soon after and the specimen resides in the MMNS in Jackson. On 14 June a very late singing male Chestnut-sided Warbler was seen and photographed in Jackson Co. Now that was unprecedented! Nesting Grasshopper Sparrows are always a treat, if you can find them, so several birds were seen and photographed in Monroe Co. from 21 June through 4 July.

Maybe the first sighting of a Bronzed Cowbird away from the MS Gulf Coast was a male seen and photographed in Brookhaven, Lincoln Co. on 26 June and was present into July. Getting southbound shorebird migration off to a great start was a whopping 219 American Avocets present at a catfish complex on 5 July in Leflore Co. A pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were first spotted on 6 July and was still present as of mid July in Madison Co. This is remarkable—the first ever sighting in MS of an adult breeding plumaged Red Phalarope was photographed off the MS River south of Vicksburg, Warren Co. on 19 July. Two species very uncommon for Madison Co., Roseate Spoonbill (1) and C. Ground-Dove (2) were seen on 27 July on Ross Barnett Reservoir. The first southbound warblers were represented by 3 Yellow Warblers on 27 July in Chickasaw Co.
Minutes of the MOS Board and Business Meeting
April 4-5, 2014

SOCIAL HOUR AND DELTA WIND BIRDS PRESENTATION

The Mississippi Ornithological Society held its Spring meeting on the Mississippi Coast April 4-6, 2014, at the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi. Nancy Madden, Past President, presided as the President and Vice-President were unable to attend. Friday’s social hour was followed by a presentation by Jason Hoeksema, President of the new non-profit organization Delta Wind Birds. The goal of the organization is to provide high-quality habitat for migrating shorebirds, by partnering with catfish farmers to schedule pond drawdowns at crucial periods. An estimated 500,000 shorebirds pass through Mississippi during their migration, and could be helped by such measures.

Plans for Saturday field trips were announced.

BOARD MEETING

On 4 April Nancy called the meeting to order at 7:30. Other Board members present were Martha Swan, Secretary; Jan Dubuisson, Treasurer; Margaret Copeland and Nick Winstead, co-editors of the Mississippi Kite; and Gene Knight, Newsletter co-editor. Dr. Mark Woodrey was a guest. The minutes of the Fall 2013 meeting were approved as distributed in the Newsletter. Jan presented the Treasurer’s report. She also reported that the bank had agreed not to continue service charges on the MOS account, would refund those already collected, and would not charge for checks.

The publication status of issues of the Mississippi Kite has been outlined in email discussions of the board. Gene handed out brochures (the old brochure with minor revisions) to be used until Ken’s revision is complete. Gene distributed a proposed welcome letter prepared by Jason Hoeksema, to be part of a new member packet also including a checklist and brochure. Since several board members were not present, he will distribute it to the board by email for discussion and vote.

Margaret reported that Jay Woods had stated at the state Audubon Board meeting that the preparer of the Great River Road Birding Trail files had been located in Canada. Jay hoped to get those files shortly and have all birding trails in Mississippi follow the format of the Coastal Birding Trail.

Tentative plans for the Fall 2014 meeting were announced. The work of Delta Wind Birds will be the focus, and Jason will investigate locations, possibly Yazoo City or Tunica. It was suggested that he contact Randy Wilson of USFWS, who lives in Yazoo City, for information.

Regarding the MOS Constitution and By-Laws, the changes in membership categories already voted on need to be changed there as well. Other changes are in order as Nick has drafted a Web Coordinator position description which would be appointed by and serve on the Board, and would be assisted by a committee, also appointed by the board. Nancy will talk to Claire and notify Tom what role she would be willing to play.

Jan presented a proposed budget for 2015, though the printing cost for the Kites should be lower. The application for 501c3 status was tabled, due to the $800 cost, and the difficulty for an old organization to attain it compared to a new one. The proposal for a policy on expenditures was also tabled.

Tom will appoint a nominating committee to come up with a slate of officers for 2015-2016. There was discussion of other committees needed: a membership committee to collect dues, notify members when dues are due, and maintain a membership directory, and a program committee, headed by the VP, to plan programs in advance and coordinate meetings with Audubon groups, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Following a buffet dinner on 5 April, the meeting was called to order at 8:15 by Past President Nancy Madden. She introduced the speaker, Dr. Mark Woodrey, Coastal Ecologist with the MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi. He gave an interesting presentation “The Winter Ecology of Yellow Rails Overwintering in Coastal Pine Savannas of the Northern Gulf of Mexico.” MOS had contributed $5000 in 2012 to help support this research. Gene Knight conducted the species tally.

After plans for Sunday field trips were discussed, the meeting was adjourned.

NEW!!! NEW!!!
ATTENTION ALL MOS MEMBERS

In order to cut down on our printing and mailing costs of the MOS Journal, we are asking any of you who would be willing to receive your MS KITE by email to please contact us at: gsknight@hughes.net

Thanks for your help.
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck  
Canada Goose  
Wood Duck  
Gadwall  
Mallard  
Mottled Duck  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Green-winged Teal  
Redhead  
Lesser Scaup  
White-winged Scoter  
Bufflehead  
Hooded Merganser  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Common Loon  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Horned Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Anhinga  
American White Pelican  
Brown Pelican  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Snowy Egret  
Little Blue Heron  
Tricolored Heron  
Cattle Egret  
Green Heron  
Black-crowned Night-Heron  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron  
White Ibis  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Swallow-tailed Kite  

Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Cooper’s Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Broad-winged Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Clapper Rail  
Sora  
Purple Gallinule  
Common Gallinule  
American Coot  
Sandhill Crane  
Black-necked Stilt  
American Oystercatcher  
Black-bellied Plover  
Wilson’s Plover  
Semipalmated Plover  
Piping Plover  
Killdeer  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Willet  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Marbled Godwit  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Sanderling  
Dunlin  
Least Sandpiper  
Western Sandpiper  
Short-billed Dowitcher  
Long-billed Dowitcher  
Wilson’s Snipe  
Bonaparte’s Gull  
Laughing Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Least Tern  
Gull-billed Tern  
Caspian Tern  
Forster’s Tern  
Royal Tern  
Black Skimmer  
Rock Pigeon  
Eurasian Collared-Dove  
White-winged Dove  
Mourning Dove  
Eastern Screech-Owl  
Great Horned Owl  
Barred Owl  

Chuck-will’s-wing  
Chimney Swift  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Rufous Hummingbird  
Calliope hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Red-cockaded Woodpecker  
N. Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
American Kestrel  
Eastern Phoebe  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Eastern Kingbird  
Loggerhead Shrike  
White-eyed Vireo  
Yellow-throated Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
Purple Martin  
Tree Swallow  
N. Rough-winged Swallow  
Cliff Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
House Wren  
Marsh Wren  
Carolina Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
Hermit Thrush  
Gray Catbird  
Brown Thrasher  

Species Total: 164

JOIN MOS ONLINE!
Help spread the word! Anyone interested in joining MOS may do so online at...
http://www.mississippiornithologicalsociety.com/Membership%20info.htm
MOS By-Law Changes: Vote to be held at the Fall meeting

The MOS Board has drafted proposed changes to the MOS By-Laws for your review regarding the creation of two new committees. The Board believes a Web Committee and Membership Committee would help improve services offered to members and the general public through better communication and interaction. These proposed changes will be voted on at the upcoming Fall meeting, and need approval by 2/3 of voting members to pass.

The proposals would add two sections to the By-Laws, Article IV - Committees (one for each proposed committee), and would modify the Treasurer's duties as described in the By-Laws, Article II - Duties of Officers, Section 4.

The proposals are below.

Proposed additions to MOS By-Laws, Article IV – Committees:

Section 3 – The Web Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The Committee shall select its own chairperson. Basic duties of the Web Committee shall include administration of the MISSBIRD email listserv, and the MOS website.

Section 4 – The Membership Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The Committee shall select its own chairperson. Basic duties of the Membership Committee shall include receiving membership dues, maintaining a membership directory, issuance of welcome letters and new member packets to new members, issuing renewal notices, and developing plans to recruit new members.

Proposed modification to MOS By-Laws, Article II – Duties of Officers, Section 4:

Current wording: The Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving and disbursing all the funds of the Society and shall submit a written report of all receipts and disbursements at the Annual meeting. The Treasurer shall keep a roster of the members.

Proposed wording: The Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving and disbursing all the funds of the Society (including dues from the Membership Committee), and shall submit a written report of all receipts and disbursements at the Annual meeting.

VISIT MOS ON THE WEB!
MISSBIRD@freelists.org • http://www.mississippiornithologicalsociety.com/

MOS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name________________________________________
Address______________________________________
City__________________________________________
State______________________________ Zip_______
Telephone____________________________________
Email________________________________________

RENEWAL _______ NEW MEMBER _______

DUES:

___ Junior (14 and under) $5 per year
___ Student (15 and older) $10 per year
___ Individual $25 per year
___ Family $35 per year
___ Subscribing (Libraries) $15 per year
___ Sustaining $50 per year
___ Life $350

Annual dues are payable in January. Send check to:
Jan Dubuisson
22481 Glad Acres
Pass Christian, MS 39571

INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT

INCOME

Dues $435.00
Interest $  6.05
Donations $ 60.00

Total Income .......................................................... $501.05

EXPENSES

Fall Meeting Expenses $783.76
Mississippi Kites $508.59
Tucker Award $ 92.14
Bank Charges $ 56.00

Total Expenses ..................................................... $1,440.49

Net Loss ................................................................. ($939.44)

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Checking Account $1,531.00
Savings Account $3,066.14
Certificate of Deposit $3,066.54
Coffey Endowment (Restricted) $15,000.00

Total Assets ........................................................ $23,197.68

Net Worth ............................................................. $23,197.68
MOS members are invited to submit photos for publication in the Newsletter. Send to gsknight@hughes.net. See page 2 for details!

**MOS Member Photos**

- Painted Bunting • Ken Hackman
- Wilson’s Plover • Jason Hoeksema
- Prairie Warbler • Wayne Patterson
- Prothonotary Warbler • Larry Pace
- Kildeer juvenile • JR Rigby
- Sanderling • Jason Hoeksema
- Osprey chick (hiding) • Tom Hoar
- Barred Owlet • Tom Hoar
- Western Sandpiper • Wayne Patterson
- American Avocets • JR Rigby
- American Bittern • Dana Swan
- Barred Owlet • Tom Hoar
Welcome New MOS Members!
Dorothy Abbott, Larry & Linda Basden, Holly Cox, Andrew Haffenden, Chris King, Judith O’Neale, Brenda Seely, and Dewitt Spencer

Welcome Back Renewing Members!
Tom & Darlene Hoar, Cindy Mitchell, Gerry Morgan, Larry Pace, Millie Page, Reese & Louise Partridge, and Mark Woodrey

Mississippi Ornithological Society
Gene and Shannon Knight
79 Hwy 9W
Oxford, MS 38655

MOS Fall 2014 Meeting – Registration Form

Name: ________________________ E-Mail: ________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: __________________________________________ Telephone __________________________

Additional Person(s): Name: ________________________ E-Mail: ________________________
Name: ________________________ E-Mail: ________________________

- Registration/Banquet $35.00 per person* ___ Person(s) X $35.00 = $___________ (*$40 for non-members)
- Friday Meet & Greet $15.00 per person ___ Person(s) X $15.00 = $___________ (members only)
- Sat. Shorebird Workshop $15.00 per person* ___ Person(s) X $15.00 = $___________ (*$20 for non-members)
- 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:
MOS Treasurer
c/o Delta Wind Birds
P.O. Box 1536
Oxford, MS 38655

Mail this registration form no later than Saturday, August 30, 2014!

Dues are payable in January of each year. Check your mailing label for dues status. Please send address or email changes to gsknight@hughes.net.