

# MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



VOLUME 63. No. 1

APRIL 2018

## 2018 MOS Spring Meeting

The Spring 2018 MOS Meeting will be held on the Gulf Coast April 27-29. The Friday Meet & Greet and the Saturday evening banquet will both be held at the Pascagoula River Audubon Center. with talk by special guests Bob and Lucy Duncan.

**REGISTRATION.** Online registration and membership sign-up are available at [www.missbird.org/Meetings.htm](http://www.missbird.org/Meetings.htm). A mail-in form is also available on the back page of this newsletter. Cost is \$45 (student rate, \$25).

**ACCOMODATIONS.** A limited block of rooms has been reserved under the group name "MOS" at the following hotel, and it **will be held until Friday, April 6**. Advance reservations are recommended because of limited availability and better rates. Please be sure to mention that you are with the MOS group to secure your rate and potentially earn MOS discounts, if we reserve enough rooms.

Comfort Inns & Suites  
12009 Indian River Road  
D'Iberville, MS 39540  
228-396-0036

**BANQUET.** Venue - Pascagoula River Audubon Center, 5107 Arthur St., Moss Point, MS 39563. Phone 228-475-0825. Website <http://pascagoula.river.audubon.org/>. Meal catered by Scranton's, served buffet style, includes choice of entrees (pork loin, grouper), sides, and dessert.

**SEE PAGE 2 FOR FIELD TRIP INFORMATION**

### 🕒 SCHEDULE

FRIDAY (4/27)

**\*3:30-5:30pm** MOS Board/  
Officers' Meeting (PRAC)

**\*5:30-7:00pm** Meet & Greet  
with light refreshments,  
discussion of field trips (PRAC)

SATURDAY (4/28)

**\*6:30-7:30am** Breakfast for  
guests staying at Comfort Inn

**\*7:30am** Field trips meet in  
hotel parking lot

**\*Lunch on your own**

**\*6:30pm** Banquet - PRAC

**\*7:30pm** Business meeting &  
Species Tally; Guest speakers  
Bob & Lucy Duncan

SUNDAY (4/29)

**\*6:30-7:30am** Breakfast for  
guests staying at Comfort Inn

**\*7:30am** Field trips meet in  
hotel parking lot



Lucy & Bob Duncan

*Well known to the Gulf Coast Birding community, guest speakers Lucy & Bob Duncan are longtime residents of the Florida panhandle and regular contributors to the birding listservs of Alabama and Florida.*

*The Duncans are the Gulf Coast's best interpreters of weather when it comes to predicting the migratory behavior of birds.*

*Bob's publications include "The Birds of Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa Counties, Florida" and "Bird Migration Weather and Fallout."*

# MOS Officers & Board Members

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

# MOS Spring Meeting Field Trips

- Seaman Road Lagoon
- Ship Island
- Boneyard Lake MCAS field trip (Saturday)

We have a special arrangement with Eco-Tours of South Mississippi to deliver and pick up kayaks to the launch site for a rental fee of \$30/single or \$40/tandem kayak. To reserve your kayak, contact Eco-Tours at 228-297-8687 or [ecotours.ms@gmail.com](mailto:ecotours.ms@gmail.com) and be sure to say you are with the Audubon trip to Boneyard. DEADLINE TO RESERVE IS APRIL 21. Eco-Tours will provide life vests, etc., and they require a commitment of 6 kayaks to book the trip, so call now!

# Say's Phoebe

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, Wayne Patterson found this Say's Phoebe about five miles outside of Okolona, in Chickasaw County. Under a cloudy sky, Wayne found the bird perched on a power line across the road from a catfish pond in someone's front yard. We should all be so lucky as to have neighbors with catfish ponds!

When he saw the bird, it was flycatching from the power line, intermittently coming back in to bob his tail in the typical fashion of the phoebes. Being only 25 feet from the bird, Wayne was able to get several photos. Having experience with the species, he knew what he had found, and filled out the proper documentation. Good job, Wayne!



*Say's Phoebe by Wayne Patterson*



*Say's Phoebe by Wayne Patterson*

# President's Corner

By J.R. Rigby, President

It's April. For the previous four years this month has seen me spending an hour or two a day combing the trees and hedges surrounding William Faulkner's home in Oxford for the 30+ species of warbler it has become so reliable for in migration. This year has been a challenge. We all have periods when the daily responsibilities of life require so much that there's not much left over for birding. This year has been one of those times for me. Still, on a recent outing, as I knocked off some of the winter rust, I was rewarded with a male Nashville Warbler singing and picking through the new growth of a large oak tree. Nashvilles are regular but uncommon, a treat even in years when I am out searching the trees nearly every day. So this little encounter was its own kind of mini rarity: the intersection of an uncommon bird and irregular birder. In other words, a blessing. It reminded me that in my experience the birds have nearly always found ways to reward an outing.

It is April, and the MOS Spring Meeting is upon us. Bob and Lucy Duncan will delight us with their many years of birding the Gulf Coast and enlighten us with their knowledge of spring migration patterns. Sadly, work has taken me afield this year at an inopportune time and I won't be able to participate in the meeting. I hope you all will make Lucy and Bob welcome, and show off the birding on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Not only is it April, but we are nearing the end of April. The end of April also marks one third of 2018 gone, which brings us to the MOS eBird Contest. I am so pleased with the participation so far. Great job, everyone! But I may have to come up with an additional prize for the first person to unseat Jeff Harris from the top position on the leader board! The gap is closing (Lillie Gibb is less than six points behind now!), but there is still much work to be done. We now have three people with ten points or more (and Andy Bell will probably break into that club after his Big Day attempt this week). More than thirty contestants have submitted checklists from ten or more counties. Perhaps most importantly, we have over 600 contestants who have submitted at least one checklist this year.

So, thank you all for participating. eBird is a citizen science project, and in many ways it may be THE citizen science project given its scale and

sophistication. Citizen science is a complex topic in the scientific community. It is difficult to standardize data and to ensure data quality, in part because there are constantly new people picking up the hobby and submitting lists. The flip side is precisely that new people are getting interested in birds because there is such a large community with which to share sightings and get feedback. Feedback is the essence of learning and eBird makes birding expertise more broadly available to those with a budding interest in birds.

Before I close, I want to especially thank all the MOS officers who have carried so much weight in organizing this meeting in my absence. Thanks in particular to Holly Cox for all her efforts to keep the meeting on track, and to Ken Hackman for taking on the Newsletter with little notice when MOS needed help.

Keep up the great work. I look forward to rejoining the group this fall.

## Your Newsletter

For many years the MOS Newsletter has been in the capable hands of Gene and Shannon Knight, who did a magnificent job that will never be matched. When the Knights retired from editing the newsletter, my wife and I agreed to take over the duties, having extensive experience but little knowledge concerning the guidelines for this specific periodical.

Multiple factors delayed your receipt of this issue. We pledge to you a timelier and better newsletter for the Fall Meeting. We are already in the process of developing a timeline for publication which will speed up and improve the process. Thanks for your patience as the change takes place!

**In order to make this the best newsletter it can be, we need your help! Please send us your photos and articles.** Remember that all photos will be credited and will remain the intellectual property of the photographer.

What goes in the newsletter? Anything you deem worthy! Just send them on!

Ken Hackman  
111 Mallard Lane  
Madison, MS 39110  
[khackman@comcast.net](mailto:khackman@comcast.net)

# Birding Down Under

By Ken Hackman

Thanks to Jackson birder Rynetta Coetzee, I was given a wonderful experience of a lifetime this past summer. Four years ago, Rynetta called me to see if I would be interested in taking a gentleman out birding and herping. I agreed and went to pick him up on the day we had agreed upon. She didn't tell me much, other than he was an Aussie who was in town for a wedding. I picked Angus up, and we headed out to Pipeline Road on a hot July morning, starting very early in the day. We had a wonderful time, not only enjoying birds, but reptiles and amphibians, as well.

Around 2:30 that afternoon, drenched in sweat, we decided to call it a day, and I headed to return him to his hotel. I had previously told Angus that I travel to Australia every other year as a school tour leader, and that I loved Aussie wildlife. Before he got out of the car, he handed me two field guides. One was a field guide for *Frogs of the Lake Eyre Basin*, and one was a field guide for *Snakes of Western Queensland*. "I'd like you to have these," he said. I thanked him with a great deal of excitement over my new treasures, certain I would be using them on my next tour! Western Queensland is about the same size as Texas, and the Lake Eyre Basin is several times larger!

When I got home, I kicked back in my lounge chair, picked up the first guide, and as I did, I found his name on the cover! He was one of the two authors! Still having his info, I rang him back up to see if I could come back and get him to sign them. He agreed, we met in the hotel lobby around 4:30, and talked until nearly 1:00 the next morning! We kept in touch via Facebook, and as a result, developed a friendship. As this past summer approached, he invited me to come spend a couple of weeks with him. After making sure that I had plenty of other teachers to take the students back and making sure that all parents were ok with that, I was ready for an Outback adventure in June!

Angus and his wife were wonderful hosts. In addition to being a great cook, Karen is a registered rehabber, and they had seven roos of three different species at the time, so I had lots of

opportunities to feed joeys! The birding every morning and afternoon was phenomenal- and we spent much time with the Queensland Naturalists Club, which were meeting at his place for several days for their June winter meeting. I was even asked to speak to their group about the Henslow's Sparrow banding my students and I did for 16 years. It was quite intimidating, as there were about five or six authors in the group. There was even a new species of mistletoe discovered during the conference, by the author of a field guide to mistletoes, which includes over 90 Aussie species.



*Hackman feeding joey  
by Karen Emmott*

Even though this was my 11<sup>th</sup> time to visit Australia, getting out to Angus' place gave me 117 new bird species for my Aussie list! I also had the opportunity to photograph quite a few remarkable birds, reptiles, and amphibians. There certainly isn't enough room for all the wonderful things I was able to experience, like watching flocks of wild cockatiels, cockatoos and parrots; birding in warm 85-degree winter temps, attending the banding of Troughton's Sheath-tailed Bats, and my first time butchering a cow, some of which we had for dinner that night!

Oz is certainly a magical place. I can't wait for my next trip Down Under! To see more of Angus Emmott's photos, check him out on Facebook!



*Pink Cockatoos by Angus Emmott*

# Minutes of MOS Fall Board Meeting and Business Meeting

## BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 13, 2017

Submitted by Holly Cox, MOS Secretary

The Board of Directors of the Mississippi Ornithological Society met at 3:43 p.m. on Friday, October 13, 2017 at the Pascagoula River Audubon Center in Moss Point. Present were J.R. Rigby, President; Wayne Patterson, Treasurer; Ken Hackman, Past President; Nick Winstead, Editor of the *Mississippi Kite*; Gene Knight, MBRC Chair; and Holly Cox, Secretary.

J.R. moved that the minutes of the Spring 2017 meeting as printed in the newsletter be approved, Wayne seconded, and they were unanimously approved. Wayne then passed out the Treasurer's report showing a balance through August 31, 2017 of \$28,856.59. It was discussed again the need to obtain non-profit status in order to receive donations. J.R. will get with an attorney to discuss whether we can qualify under 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(7). Wayne will process the necessary documents with the State once this is determined. Gene asked about the ability to access the funds held in Coffey CDs. Wayne also mentioned he has only ever had copies of the CDs. Wayne said he will check with the bank for more information and report back.

Nick Winstead mentioned that the Kite publications are caught up and that costs will go down in the future, especially since more members are receiving it electronically. Nick has also been in contact with Mark Woodrey who agreed to provide an article for the Kite and said he would have the article submitted in time for the December publication.

Gene Knight said he would likely be resigning from his position as newsletter editor soon and that we should be considering other options for the newsletter. Ken Hackman mentioned his wife currently handles several newsletter accounts for different groups. Ken then discussed it with his wife during the meeting via phone and she said she would help out. The Board agreed to accept her assistance.

Discussions were held about guest speakers for the 2018 MOS meetings. It was agreed that the locations might include Tishomingo State Park or the Bay Springs area as well as the Coast. J.R. will contact author Scott Weidensaul to see about availability and cost to possibly be a guest speaker in the Spring. Brian K. Wheeler's book publication was pushed to Fall of 2018, so he might be pursued for then.

J.R. mentioned the website design person who had been working with our account crashed the new site J.R. had created. The person then decided not to finish the job. It was agreed by all that we should hire a professional to do the website. Wayne and Ken were going to check with people they know for proposals.

Nick Winstead said he had been contacted about Tucker Award nominees. Two names, husband and wife, had been suggested to him and were discussed. Nick moved to give the Tucker Award to both of them in 2018, J.R. seconded, and they were unanimously approved by all. It was also discussed and agreed that recipients did not need to be present at the meeting to be honored with the award.

J.R. said that he had been in touch with his contact at Ebird and that we are still targeting 2018 to have the MOS/Ebird contest which will help bird new counties in Mississippi that are under birded. The prize of a new pair of binoculars will be donated by Ebird. J.R. also said he is still looking into the final design options in order to produce MOS t-shirts, caps, stickers, etc. and will update us again in the future.

Ken Hackman moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Wayne Patterson. The meeting ended at 4:37pm.

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING OCTOBER 14, 2017

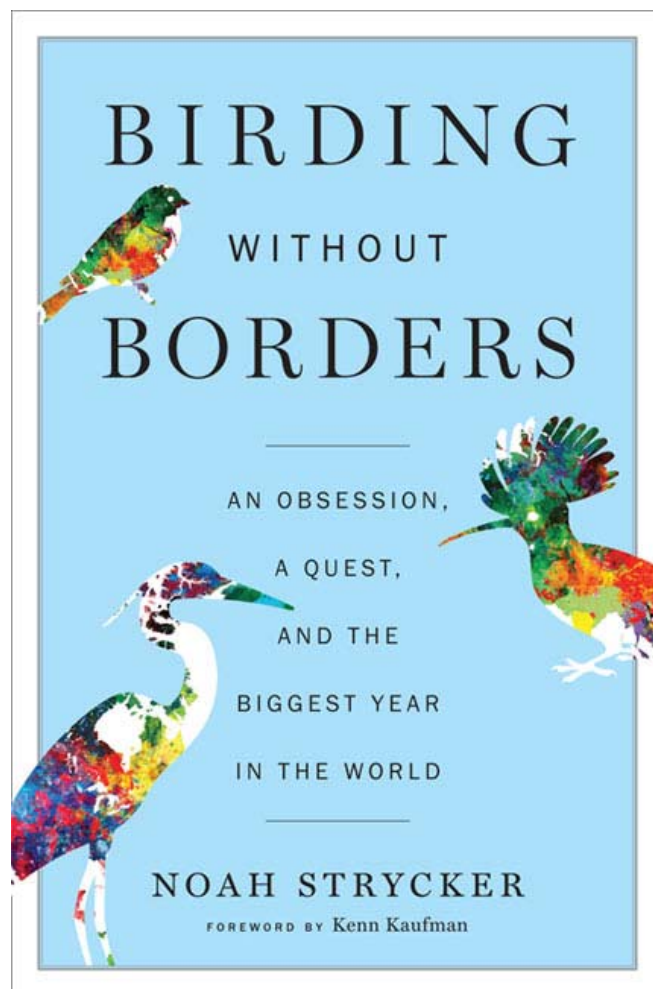
Submitted by Holly Cox, MOS Secretary

MOS members met at Patio 44 restaurant in Biloxi for the Fall 2017 banquet. J.R. Rigby, President, called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. and asked if the minutes from the Spring 2017 meeting as written in the newsletter were approved by the members. Martha Swan moved that they be accepted, Bob Foehring seconded, and they were unanimously approved. Wayne gave the Treasurer's Report which reflected a balance through August 31, 2017 of \$28,856.59. J.R. then made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as given and Dana Swan seconded.

J.R. mentioned that a good birding day was had by all at the Seaman Road Lagoons field trip in Ocean Springs. In addition, the rare appearance of a Tropical Kingbird was enjoyed by many at Tillman Street in Pascagoula. J.R. then thanked Holly Cox for all of her hard work on the Fall meeting. He also thanked the Pascagoula River Audubon Center (PRAC) and the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society for the great book signing social they co-hosted at PRAC the night before for Noah Strycker, MOS members and the public. He then announced that Nick Winstead had all of the Kite publications up to date and things should continue moving smoothly in the future. J.R. also reported that everything was on track for the MOS/Ebird contest in 2018 which would attempt to have birders compete by birding under birded counties in Mississippi and documenting their sightings on Ebird. Ebird is also donating a pair of ZEISS binoculars for the prize. More contest rules and information will be forthcoming. J.R. then introduced Hal Mitchell who talked briefly about Nocturnal Flight Devices and what birds the device placed at PRAC on Friday night had recorded. Some of which included Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Indigo Bunting, and a Black-throated Green Warbler.

Jason Hoeksema conducted the species tally. The final weekend tally totaled 162 species. J.R. then announced tomorrow's field trip would be lead by Holly Cox to bird the beach and some of the coastal harbors. Those interested should meet up at the hotel breakfast area at 7:30 a.m.

J.R. Rigby made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jason Hoeksema seconded. The meeting ended at 7:51 p.m.



J.R. introduced the guest speaker, Noah Strycker, author and previous world birding record holder, who spoke about the birds, people and traveling during his 2015 Big Year. This topic coincided with the release of his new book earlier in the week – *Birding Without Borders*.



*Orange-crowned Warbler by Ken Hackman*

# Species List - Mississippi Gulf Coast 2017 MOS Fall MEETING October 13-15

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Greater Yellowlegs	Blue Jay
Canada Goose	Willet	American Crow
Wood Duck	Lesser Yellowlegs	Fish Crow
Gadwall	Marbled Godwit	Tree Swallow
American Wigeon	Ruddy Turnstone	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Mottled Duck	Red Knot	Barn Swallow
Blue-winged Teal	Stilt Sandpiper	Carolina Chickadee
Northern Shoveler	Sanderling	Tufted Titmouse
Northern Pintail	Least Sandpiper	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Green-winged Teal	Pectoral Sandpiper	House Wren
Ruddy Duck	Western Sandpiper	Winter Wren
Pied-billed Grebe	Short-billed Dowitcher	Sedge Wren
Wood Stork	Long-billed Dowitcher	Marsh Wren
Magnificent Frigatebird	Wilson's Snipe	Carolina Wren
Double-crested Cormorant	Laughing Gull	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Anhinga	Franklin's Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
American White Pelican	Ring-billed Gull	Eastern Bluebird
Brown Pelican	Herring Gull	Veery
Great Blue Heron	Gull-billed Tern	Swainson's Thrush
Great Egret	Caspian Tern	Gray Catbird
Snowy Egret	Common Tern	Brown Thrasher
Little Blue Heron	Forster's Tern	Northern Mockingbird
Tricolored Heron	Royal Tern	European Starling
Reddish Egret	Black Skimmer	Ovenbird
Cattle Egret	Rock Pigeon	Northern Waterthrush
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Golden-winged Warbler
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Inca Dove	Tennessee Warbler
White Ibis	White-winged Dove	Common Yellowthroat
White-faced Ibis	Mourning Dove	American Redstart
Glossy Ibis	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Northern Parula
Black Vulture	<b>Groove-billed Ani</b>	Magnolia Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Barred Owl	Yellow Warbler
Osprey	Common Nighthawk	Palm Warbler
Bald Eagle	Chimney Swift	Pine Warbler
Northern Harrier	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Prairie Warbler
Cooper's Hawk	Belted Kingfisher	Black-throated Green Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Towhee
Red-tailed Hawk	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Savannah Sparrow
Clapper Rail	Downy Woodpecker	Nelson's Sparrow
Virginia Rail	Northern Flicker	Seaside Sparrow
Sora	Pileated Woodpecker	Swamp Sparrow
Common Gallinule	American Kestrel	Summer Tanager
American Coot	Merlin	Northern Cardinal
Sandhill Crane	Peregrine Falcon	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Black-necked Stilt	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Blue Grosbeak
American Avocet	Eastern Phoebe	Indigo Bunting
American Oystercatcher	Tropical Kingbird	Bobolink
Black-bellied Plover	Eastern Kingbird	Red-winged Blackbird
American Golden-Plover	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Eastern Meadowlark
Snowy Plover	Loggerhead Shrike	Boat-tailed Grackle
Wilson's Plover	White-eyed Vireo	Brown-headed Cowbird
Semipalmated Plover	Blue-headed Vireo	House Finch
Piping Plover	Philadelphia Vireo	House Sparrow
Killdeer	Red-eyed Vireo	
Spotted Sandpiper		

# MOS Spring 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 April 15.**

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

**Mississippi Ornithological Society**

**79 Hwy 9W**

**Oxford, MS 38655**