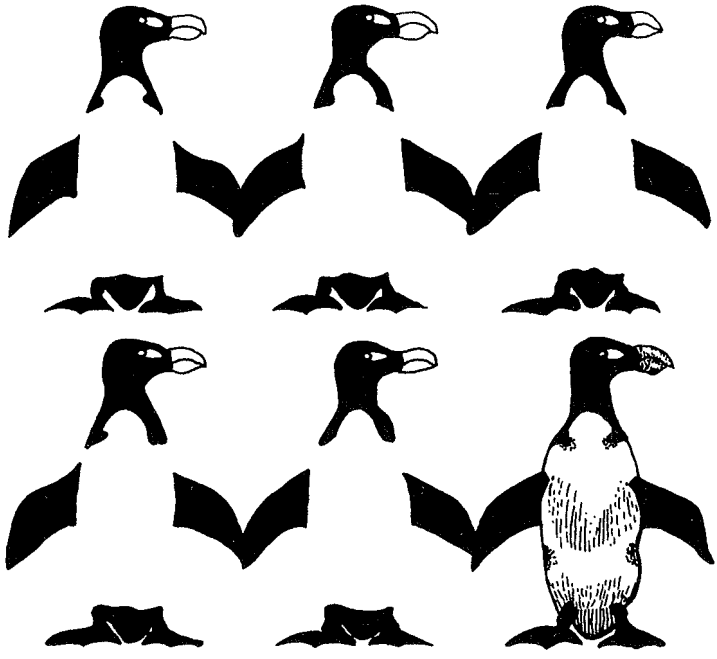
ISSN 0737-0393

THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

Vol.16(1) July 1986



A Periodical Published by the Mississippi Ornithological Society
to Record and Further the Study of Mississippi Birdlife

Vol. 16, No. 1 July 1986

Contents

Front Cover: A new bird for Mississippi: The Great Auk, symbol of the American Ornithologists' Union. We welcome the A.O.U. to Mississippi for its 104th Stated Meeting, 18-21 August 1986. (Drawing by Scott Brady.)

A Guide to Birding in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi

Jerome A. Jackson

Department of Biological Sciences
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, MS 39762

In 1977 I prepared a guide to birding in Oktibbeha County for attendees at the 58th annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society which was held on the Mississippi State University campus from 19-22 May of that year (Jackson 1977). Since then new birding areas have been explored, some old ones have been lost to development or natural succession, and some new bird species have been documented for the county. This revision has been prepared to introduce new visitors, especially attendees at the 104th stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, to our county and the best birding areas it has to offer.

Oktibbeha County in east-central Mississippi includes an edge of the black-belt prairie to the northeast, but before human settlement, was primarily what Kuchler (1964) refers to as oak-hickory-pine forest. Bernard Romans (1962:313) in 1771 briefly characterized what is probably now partly Oktibbeha County: "...we went to the Chickasaw nation, through a road leading in general over stiff clay land; saw very little else but white oak, and that no where tall, occasioned by the stiffness of the land; crossed only two rivers of note, one Nashooba, the other Oka tebbee haw; no remarkable ascent or descent on the whole road; crossed many savannahs.."

Romans (op. cit.) also mentions considerable cultivation of the land by Choctaw Indians. During the past two centuries most of the remaining forest land was cleared for agriculture. By the 1930's depleted soils and economic depression resulted in much of the land reverting to second growth forest, although considerable acreage was kept in pasture and the county became known as the dairy capital of the South. Today there are fewer than half the number of dairy herds in the county that there were in 1956, and Oktibbeha County does not seem to be a major center for any agricultural product (Scott 1976). Various forest industries are important in the county, and over 148 thousand acres (51% of the county) was forested in 1976. Much

of the forested area is loblolly pine, but along the many stream bottoms there are still sizeable stands of hardwoods. Unfortunately, as a result of current and past forest management practices, there is little old forest. The Noxubee River (referred to by Romans, above, as the "Nashooba") flows along the southern boundary of the county through Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge. Although a permanent stream and large enough to canoe, numerous logs that have fallen across the river require canoers to spend more time crawling over and around logs than paddling. For the hiker, though, there are numerous opportunities to cross the river. In the northern and eastern sections of the county, Cretaceous chalk is near the surface and, where streams have cut into the chalk, water is relatively clear and the hard beds provide enjoyable walking/wading. Good birding habitats are also provided by other aquatic environments such as the abundant farm ponds, the Oktibbeha County Lake, Bluff Lake, the Starkville and MSU sewage lagoons, and the aquaculture ponds on the MSU South farm.

The best bottomland forest habitats are those along the Noxubee River and its tributaries, and can be reached either by way of Oktoc Road or from Mississippi highway 25. The best open, grassland (Andropogon)/agricultural bottomlands are just north of Starkville along Mississippi highway 389. Fringes of black-belt prairie habitat and chalk-bottom creek habitats can be found along U.S. 82, the "Old West Point Road" (follow Glen St. north out of Starkville from highway 82), and along Sessums Rd. To really experience the black-belt prairie habitats, one must continue east into Lowndes County or northeast into Clay County. Pine and pine-hardwood forests are best developed to the south and west of Starkville along Mississippi highways 12 and 25 and at Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge.

Some of the better birding areas in the county are described below and are indicated in Figure 1. Bird names refer to species as listed in The AOU Checklist of North American Birds (American Ornithologists' Union 1983).

1. Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge.--Slightly less than half of this 46,000 acre refuge is located in Oktibbeha County. This includes extensive pine-hardwood forest along Mississippi highway 25 and bottomland hardwood forest along Cypress Creek, the Noxubee River, and Oktoc Creek. Approximately 1200 acres of bottomland hardwood between Oktoc Creek and the Noxubee River were proposed for Wilderness status, but no action was taken on the proposal. At the moment, the area remains a wild and

beautiful mature bottomland hardwood forest. However, yellow paint daubed on by foresters suggests many of the older trees may soon be cut. During spring and fall a trek along the Noxubee River between the north levee of Bluff Lake and the east end of the Keeton Tower Rd. makes an enjoyable one-day hike. Black Vultures nest commonly in hollow logs and the hollowed bases of trees. Wood Ducks, all of our native woodpeckers except the Red-cockaded and Ivory-billed, and bottomland specialties such as Swainson's, Kentucky, Northern Parula, and Yellow-throated warblers can be found. There are many other good birding areas on the refuge, some of which are in Winston or Noxubee county. A few prime spots in Oktibbeha County are detailed below. For maps, bird checklists, and additional information, visit refuge headquarters near the southwest corner of Bluff Lake (open only on weekdays). Information can also be obtained by writing to the Refuge Manager, Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Brooksville, MS 39759.

2. Bluff Lake.--Only the northern end of this 1000-acre lake on Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge is in Oktibbeha County. This lake is home for several thousand ducks and geese each winter. Canada Geese are resident descendants of a captive flock that was introduced to the refuge several years ago. A new policy of the Fish and Wildlife Service has resulted in removal or deterioration of the Wood Duck boxes that were described in 1977 as providing homes for numerous cavity-nesting species. The decision to end the nest box program was apparently based on the assumption that adequate natural cavities were available. In the 1950's Bald Eagles nested in a cypress tree at the west end of the lake. They still regularly winter on the lake, as does an occasional Golden Eagle. Ospreys linger awhile during migration. Following a flood which washed out the dam, in 1979, fishing was prohibited in Bluff Lake and more emergent vegetation appeared there. Great Blue Herons, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, and Anhingas nested successfully in the cypress until fishing was reopened in 1983. The opening of fishing season on 1 March each year results in a flood of power boats and human activity on the lake -- and immediate departure of most remaining wintering birds. Although nesting colonial waterbirds have disappeared, a canoe trip through the cypress during the spring and summer can be rewarding. Wood Ducks, Eastern Kingbirds, Prothonotary Warblers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Great Crested Flycatchers, Acadian Flycatchers, Green-backed Herons, Red-winged Blackbirds, and many other species pay little heed to a silent canoe passing by. In late

summer the lake is lowered to allow growth of food plants for wintering ducks. The resulting mud flats attract large numbers of wading birds - including post-breeding Wood Storks, although their numbers have declined dramatically in recent years and in some years they have not appeared at all. Up to 200 or more Black and Turkey vultures congregate around the south and west areas of the lake in dead trees during late summer and often remain through the winter. Winter months also generally bring Double-crested Cormorants, an occasional Common Loon, and a few Horned Grebes. Gulls and terns are not common in the area, but show up regularly during migration and in winter.

3. North Levee Trail.--In 1977, the north levee of Bluff Lake was one of the favored birding areas in the county. It was called the "Bamboo Trail" because of dense stands of bamboo that arched over the levee for several hundred feet. Some of the bamboo was over 30 feet tall and six inches in diameter. Although an exotic species that was planted there in the 1940s, the bamboo attracted numerous visitors, both human and feathered. The bamboo and all of the other vegetation that was along the north levee at Bluff Lake were bulldozed and the levee was reinforced with large rocks following the flood of 1979. Although vegetation was also cleared on the forest side of the levee, this is still a fruitful birding area. The top of the levee was graded as a service road, and a walk down the approximately 1-mile length provides good vantage points for observing aquatic birds on the lake, and forest and edge birds away from the lake. Gone, however, are the close views of nesting birds and the large flocks of roosting winter finches. Gone too is the shade, so this is not a hike for a hot afternoon!

4. Pete's Slough.--This cypress slough is not readily accessible, but is an attractive area for the birder willing to hike through brambles and maybe do a little wading. In past years Great Blue Herons and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons have nested in the tops of the cypresses in the slough. The character of this slough is unlike that of the cypress areas at the west edge of Bluff Lake in that the trees are more dense and much less sunlight reaches the water. The slough begins about 2 miles east of highway 25 and 150-200 yards south of the Keeton Tower Road.

5. Mississippi State University Forest.--This forest borders Mississippi highway 25 and its boundary adjoins Noxubee

National Wildlife Refuge in many areas. While managed primarily for forest products and used as a training and experimental area for forestry students from Mississippi State University, the area also provides a lot of good birding. Much of the area is pine-hardwood forest, though bottomland hardwood habitats occur along Chinchahoma Creek. Two Red-cockaded Woodpecker colonies were active on the forest in 1977, but both have since been abandoned, apparently as a result of management activities. The young pine plantations in the area provide habitat for Prairie Warblers. Older pine forests have such southern specialties as Brown-headed Nuthatches and Chuck-will's-Widows.

6. Dorman Lake.--This 12-acre lake on the Mississippi State University Forest is surrounded by pine-hardwood forest on all sides. Brown-headed Nuthatches are common in the pines around the picnic area to the east. Prothonotary Warblers nest in several of the dead trees along the upper arms of the lake, and Swainson's Warblers have been seen along the ephemeral streams that feed into and from the lake. A trail leads from the picnic area around the lake. Dorman Lake is about 9 miles south of Starkville and about a mile east of highway 25. The road to the lake is at the top of a hill and is well-marked by a sign directing you to the lake.

7. Starkville Sewage Disposal Ponds.--In fall and winter these are used by a number of species of waterfowl. Indigo Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks are common along the edges in summer. The ponds can be reached by taking the first gravel road to the southeast from highway 25 as you drive toward Starkville from Emerson Elementary School.

8. Mississippi State University Campus.-- The main campus of Mississippi State University is well-landscaped and provides habitat for many bird species. Warblers are abundant in the large water oaks and sugarberry trees during migration. Flocks of 200 or more Cedar Waxwings or American Goldfinches can often be found on campus from February through early May. Barn Owls have nested on campus, but none has been seen in the past few years. During the Wilson Ornithological Society meeting in 1977, there was an active nest in a hollow of a large post oak just outside of the Student Union. Unfortunately, the tree died and was removed, and the owls have not been seen since. Past campus nest sites have included a large oak near Rice Dormitory, and concrete supports under the stadium. Northern Flickers have excavated numerous cavities along the eaves of Herbert Hall, and the flickers, as well as American Kestrels, have nested there

for several years. The wooded areas at the edge of campus, and Eckie's Pond near the President's home, provide good birding. The Ed Roberts Nature Trail extends along the north and east edges of campus, keeping as much as possible to the wooded and undeveloped areas. One of the best segments loops through the woods behind Hamlin Hall. The entrance to the trail is not well marked. To find it, go to the parking lot behind Hamlin and follow the entrance drive straight back to the edge of the woods. Turn west and the entrance should be within about 100 feet. The trail emerges from the woods just behind the Baptist Student Center. At that point, cross the road and pick up the trail again to the south of the Methodist Student Center. This section of the trail is not well used now since much of the trail was replaced by a large parking lot behind McKee Hall. Even the parking lot has its interest, however, since the grading at the east edge has bared a Cretaceous chalk bed that is rich in fossils. The trail picks up again at the southeast corner of the parking lot and continues to Eckie's Pond. Habitat along the trail varies from mature hardwoods, to second growth hardwoods, to edge habitats, to pine woods, to grassland. It is not really "wild," but it is a pleasant trail along which birds of disturbed areas, hardwood forest, and forest edge can readily be found. A campus map can be obtained at the Information Desk in the MSU Student Union.

9. Mississippi State University South Farm.--Located just south of the MSU campus and reached from Spring St. or by travelling straight south from campus on Stone Blvd., the MSU South Farm is primarily pasture land, but also includes a number of aquaculture ponds and some small second-growth forest areas. A large ditch through the center of the South Farm (Catalpa Creek) provides habitat for hundreds of nesting Red-winged Blackbirds, a few pairs of Belted Kingfishers, and a few Rough-winged Swallows. Northern Harriers can be found in the fields during fall and winter, and American Kestrels and Loggerhead Shrikes commonly use utility wires and fences as hunting perches. Water Pipits frequent bare wet areas in winter. Numerous shorebirds are attracted to the aquaculture ponds when they are drained in fall. Bobolinks are regular visitors along the roadsides during spring migration (late April, May). A 23-acre ecological research area at the east edge of the South Farm provides habitat for Chuck-will's-Widows and other woodland birds.

10. Mississippi State University North Farm.--This area, bordering U.S. highway 82 just north of the main campus, is used

primarily for crop research, although a dairy farm is at the west edge. Two sewage lagoons provide habitat for wintering waterfowl and a few waders. Sand Creek runs along the north border of the farm and also attracts shorebirds. The bare fields are good places for Horned Larks and Water Pipits in winter and for Golden Plovers during spring migration. Culverts along U.S. 82 adjacent to the North Farm support large colonies of Barn Swallows.

11. Cedar Bluff Road-Sun Creek.--The bridge just west of Sun Creek is the only known recent nest site of Eastern Phoebes in the county. The bottomland along the creek at this point often supports concentrations of ducks, geese, and wading birds during winter.

12. Hillbrook Subdivision.--The grassy hills of this subdivision are still used each spring as a display ground by courting American Woodcock. The birds can be heard and sometimes seen in their display almost any evening from late January through early March. Displays begin shortly before dark and may continue until well after midnight. However, there have been fewer woodcock in the area since 1977, probably because of the added houses in the subdivision and the growth of trees where there were open fields. To reach the area, take Oktoc Road toward Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge. Approximately 1.5 miles south of the junction of Oktoc and Blackjack roads, a paved road branches to the right just before Oktoc crosses a small creek. Take the right hand road. The woodcock are most often heard near the back of the subdivision in grassy areas.

13. Oktibbeha County Lake.--This 700-acre lake and the surrounding pine-hardwood forests provide good birding most of the year. During late summer the water level of the lake is lowered and extensive mud flats attract numbers of shorebirds and other waders, including occasional Wood Storks. Waterfowl also winter on the lake, though not in the numbers found at Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge. The best birding area is at the west end of the lake, where a gravel road separates the main lake from a shallow marsh area. Oktibbeha County Lake is approximately 7 miles northwest of Starkville and is reached by a paved county road which turns north from U.S. highway 82 at Adaton. A large sign on the highway directs you to the lake.

14. Blocker's Farm.--This prime winter birding area was not included in the 1977 guide. The site is an extensive cleared bottomland area belonging to the Blocker family. The

area floods each winter and attracts hundreds of waterfowl. It has been a consistent spot for occasional Tundra Swans; Bald Eagles and Northern Harriers are regular winter visitors. The land is posted, but a spotting scope provides adequate viewing from the gravel county road that runs along the edge of the property. To reach this area, take Oktoc Road south toward Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge. Just beyond the Oktoc Community Center (which is a conspicuous landmark on the left about 9 miles south of the MSU campus) is Gentry's Store and a gravel road to the right. Turn onto this road and follow it. In about 2.5 miles, you reach a 4-way stop. Continue straight ahead. In less than a mile the road drops into the Warrior Creek bottom. The flooded areas that are most productive are on the left just before and just after the main road makes a sharp curve to the right.

Literature Cited

American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. Checklist of North American birds. 6th ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

Kuchler, A.W. 1964. Potential natural vegetation of the conterminous United States. American Geographical Society, Special Publication 36.

Romans, B. 1962. A concise natural history of east and west Florida. University of Florida Press, Gainesville.

Jackson, J.A. 1977. A guide to birding in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. Miss. Kite 7:1-5.

Scott, B.G., Jr. (ed.). 1976. Mississippi statistical abstract. Division of Research, College of Business and Industry, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State.

First Breeding of the House Finch in Mississippi

Jerome A. Jackson, Bette J. Schardien Jackson,
and Malcolm F. Hodges, Jr.

Department of Biological Sciences
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

Since the House Finch (Carpodacus mexicanus) was first seen in Mississippi in 1980 (Jackson 1981), it has been seen in winter, in small numbers, throughout the state. The first summer record was of a lone male photographed at a feeder in Jackson on 14 July 1984. It was periodically seen at the feeder through 20 August 1984 (M.V. Duvic, pers. comm.).

On 22 July 1985, Nellie Hughes found a male House Finch in a residential area of Starkville, Mississippi. The bird was later seen and photographed by Bill Hughes (photos on file at Mississippi State University). On 4 August 1985, a male and female House Finch were seen at the same location by Martha Ward. On 6 August, a pair was seen there by Nina and Jack Griffin. The birds were always seen in the gravel driveway of the Griffin's home and were apparently eating grit.

During the winter of 1985-86, House Finches appeared at several feeders in the Starkville area, but disappeared by late April. Margaret Copeland, at whose home the species was first seen in the state, has had a few birds in four of the five years since. Her first birds in the fall of 1985 appeared on 18 November, and she had up to 5 individuals through March 1986. George Weathersby, however, had at least 40 House Finches at his feeders in northeast Oktibbeha County during early spring of 1986. Audrey Bain reported at least one House Finch remaining at her feeder on the north side of Starkville through 15 April.

During the first week of July 1986, 2 male and 2 female House Finches were seen by Nina Griffin in her driveway on the south side of Starkville, and Nancy Jamison had House Finches coming to a feeder about two blocks away. On 11 July 1986, JJ observed an adult female feed a recently fledged young in a pine near the Griffin's driveway, and an adult male collecting grit in the driveway. Two hours later we saw a fledgling, an adult male, and an adult female at a tube-type sunflower seed feeder

at the Jamison residence (Figure 1). Each of the birds came to the feeder alone. When the birds left the Griffin driveway area, they flew in the direction of the Jamison feeder, thus we conservatively assume that there was only one nest. Nancy Jamison indicated that the House Finches had been coming to her feeder regularly, and that she had seen the female feed a fledgling at the feeder a few days before our observations.

Figure 1. Female House Finch at a feeder in Starkville, Mississippi, 11 July 1986. (Photo by Jerome A. Jackson.)

Jackson (1981) reviewed the literature relating to the rapid spread of this species in the eastern U.S. and the events leading to its discovery in Mississippi. Since that time, the species has been recorded nesting in Alabama, central Tennessee, and Arkansas (Imhof 1984, Jackson 1984, 1985). It seems certain that the species will ultimately range throughout most of the United States. The effects of such a range expansion, however, are less easy to predict. The House Finch is known to nest in natural cavities and bird houses, and may well provide further competition for our native cavity-nesters that are already beleaguered by House Sparrows (Passer domesticus), European Starlings (Sturnus vulgaris), and Budgerigars (Melopsittacus undulatus).

Literature Cited

Imhof, T.A. 1984. Central southern region. Am. Birds 38:920-925.

Jackson, J.A. 1981. The House Finch, a new species for Mississippi. Miss. Kite 11:7-9.

Jackson, J.A. 1984. Central southern region. Am. Birds 38:1028-1031.

Jackson, J.A. 1985. Central southern region. Am. Birds 39:920-926.

North Mississippi Records of Black-legged Kittiwake, Little Gull, and Common Black-headed Gull

W. Marvin Davis

School of Pharmacy
University of Mississippi
University, Mississippi 38677

Recent occurrences of the Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla), Little Gull (Larus minutus), and Common Black-headed Gull (L. ridibundus) lead me both to review my prior records and to present the most recently added observations from the lakes of north Mississippi.

The initial records of Black-legged Kittiwake in Mississippi away from the Mississippi Sound were of two immature birds seen on Grenada Lake near the south end of Grenada dam on 4 December 1967. The first specimen for the state was an immature collected on 10 February 1969 at Sardis Lake, Panola County (Davis 1970). The latter bird was seen several times from 25 January until its collection, on Lower Lake, a 120-ha basin below the outlet channel of Sardis dam. Another single immature kittiwake was observed at this site on 3 and 4 January 1976, simultaneously with an adult Little Gull.

Most recently, I found an adult Black-legged Kittiwake at Lower Lake on 28 December 1983. The intermediate size of this species, between that of Bonaparte's (L. philadelphia) and Ring-billed (L. delawarensis) gulls, is an important character to aid in "spotting" a kittiwake, as is also the distinctive neck-wing-and-tail pattern of the immature.

The first record of a Little Gull in Mississippi on 15 March 1970 was confirmed by collection of the single adult on 16 March 1970, at Lower Lake below the dam at Sardis Lake. That specimen is in the Vaiden Collection of the Department of Biology, University of Mississippi (Davis 1971). Two later sightings of single birds were made at Lower Lake: an adult on 3 and 4 January 1976 (Davis 1976), and an immature on 5 February 1978. I obtained my first record of the species at another site, Grenada dam outlet channel, on 7 January 1984. Both this

and a second sighting there on 19 December 1984 (Muth 1985) each consisted of a single bird in first winter plumage, with markings as illustrated in Farrand (1983). The latter observation, during the 1984 Christmas Bird Count, was shared by Gene Knight, as the bird was noted in active feeding flight up and down a 75-m section of the outlet channel. Both in adult and immature plumage, the Little Gull can be distinguished fairly readily from the adult and immature Bonaparte's Gulls in whose company the former is typically found. The smaller size of the Little Gull is a helpful criterion, in addition to the distinctive dark underwings of the adult and the black markings on the mantle and tail of the immature. Furthermore, the neat dark cap of the first-winter Little Gull, which is lacking in Bonaparte's, is a feature likely to catch one's attention. I am unaware of any other Mississippi records than these five from Panola and Grenada counties.

In the course of the Christmas Bird Count at Grenada Lake on 20 December 1972, I observed one adult and one immature gull that I identified as the Common Black-headed Gull. The same day the birds were shown to Lula and Ben B. Coffey, Jr., who concurred in the identification (Davis 1973). Although the species' body length (38 cm) differs little from that of Bonaparte's Gull (30-36 cm) according to Farrand (1983), my first impression was of the birds being too large for Bonaparte's, but obviously smaller than Ring-billed Gull (L. delawarensis).

This size difference also was evident upon my second observation of the Common Black-headed Gull on 9 January 1985. In this case the single adult was seen for 3-4 minutes while coursing over the outlet channel, whereas the 1972 birds were seen near shore 200 m east of the south end of Grenada dam for 10 min (Davis 1973). The darkness of the underwing, suggestive at first of the adult Little Gull, initially attracted my attention in this second Mississippi sighting. However, the presence of white outer primaries with a gray mantle clearly distinguished it from the adult Little Gull, although making it quite similar (as was true also for its head markings) to the adult winter plumage of the Bonaparte's Gulls with which it was flying.

Although field guides do not show dark underwing coloration for the Common Black-headed Gull extending beyond the inner primaries, photographs in Grant (1982; Figs. 11, 17, and 21)

show some birds that appear more generally dark gray to black over much of the wing's under surfaces. This may be more likely under poorly illuminated conditions, as in this case when the bird was seen about 1600 with a fully cloudy sky. Similarly, the light conditions were inadequate for discerning the red on the bill of the Common Black-headed Gull, especially on a continually-moving bird. Unfortunately, although another observer was present, he could not pick out this particular bird from among the 70 rapidly wheeling, diving, and coursing Bonaparte's Gulls before it left the outlet channel to fly over the dam to the lake proper. Efforts to relocate the bird were unsuccessful. There is no photograph or specimen as yet to confirm this species' occurrence in Mississippi.

These observations of three rare species of gulls for Mississippi range over dates from 4 December to 21 March. Distribution of the occurrences by month was as follows: 4 in December, 5 in January, 2 in February, and 1 in March. In all cases except 2, the unusual species were present in the immediate company of moderate to large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls, and the dates coincide with the period of the greatest concentration of the latter species in the immediate area of the outlet channels of the 2 dams. It remains to be established whether the Black-legged Kittiwake, Little Gull, or Common Black-headed Gull might be occurring also among aggregations of Bonaparte's Gulls in other areas of Mississippi.

Acknowledgments

I acknowledge the invaluable assistance of the late Professor Y.J. McGaha, Department of Biology, in the collection of the specimens mentioned in the text.

Literature Cited

Davis, M. 1973. 501. Grenada, Miss. Am. Birds 27:347.

Davis, W.M. 1970. Inland records and first specimen of Black-legged Kittiwake from Mississippi. Auk 87:804.

Davis, W.M. 1971. A specimen of the Little Gull from northern Mississippi. Auk 88:437-438.

Davis, W.M. 1976. 562. Sardis Lake, Miss. Am. Birds 30:403.

Farrand, J., Jr. 1983. Audubon master guide to birding. Part 2. Gulls to Dippers. A.A. Knopf, New York.

Grant, P.J. 1982. Gulls. A guide to identification. T. & A.D. Poyser Ltd., Calton, England.

Muth, D.P. 1985. Central southern region. Am. Birds 39:175-179.

An Unusual Red-bellied Woodpecker Nest

Danny J. Ingold and Jerome A. Jackson

Department of Biological Sciences
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

On 18 April 1986, we discovered an active Red-bellied Woodpecker (Melanerpes carolinus) nest in a large southern red oak (Quercus falcata) in the corner of a 1 ha field adjacent to Mississippi highway 12 in Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. What was unusual about the nest was that it was in a horizontal limb and the cavity opened almost directly downward. The limb was dead, yet retained most of its bark, characteristics typical of Red-bellied Woodpecker nest limbs (Reller 1972, Jackson 1976, Kilham 1977). We climbed to the nest which was 5.6 m above ground and 3.8 m from the trunk. The diameter of the limb was 29 cm at the cavity entrance. The entrance opening was 5.2 X 5.5 cm. The cavity extended distally along the bottom of the limb. Cavity dimensions are similar to those reported by Bent (1939), Jackson (1976), and others. Of 47 Red-bellied Woodpecker nests located in east Mississippi in the past 15 months (most found by Ingold), only two had cavity entrances that were oriented at an angle of more than 45 degrees downward, and neither of these faced directly downward.

Although the cavity was nearly horizontal, there was a slight "lip" such that eggs or small young could not easily fall out. The nest contained three young of approximately 21 days of age. We banded all three, and all fledged within six days.

Conner (1975) suggests that a woodpecker nest opening that is oriented moderately downward offers protection from rain and aids in nest defense. However, he also suggests that nests with a greater downward orientation could require more energy to excavate and be more difficult to enter or to defend. Most woodpecker nests, including ones that angle moderately downward, can be entered by adult birds that simply land at the lower lip of the cavity entrance. In the case of this nest, the adults had to land on the upper surface of the limb and then hitch around to the underside in order to enter.

Short (1979) notes that the smaller Red-crowned Woodpecker (Melanerpes rubricapillus) of Middle and South America often

excavates its cavities on the underside of small branches and suggests that such a site may be less attractive to cavity competitors because of its relative inaccessibility.

Literature Cited

Bent, A.C. 1939. Life histories of North American woodpeckers. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 174.

Conner, R.N. 1975. Orientation of entrances to woodpecker nest cavities. Auk 92:371-374.

Jackson, J.A. 1976. A comparison of some aspects of the breeding ecology of Red-headed and Red-bellied woodpeckers in Kansas. Condor 78:67-76.

Kilham, L. 1977. Nest-site differences between Red-headed and Red-bellied woodpeckers in South Carolina. Wilson Bull. 89:164-165.

Reller, A.W. 1972. Aspects of the behavioral ecology of Red-headed and Red-bellied woodpeckers. Am. Midl. Nat. 88:270-290.

Short, L.L. 1979. Burdens of the picid hole-nesting habit. Wilson Bull. 91:16-28.

North Mississippi Sighting of a Vermilion Flycatcher

Vic Theobald and W. Marvin Davis

Sardis Waterfowl Refuge
Route 3, Box 340
Oxford, MS 38655

School of Pharmacy
University of Mississippi
University, MS 28677

Vermilion Flycatchers (Pyrocephalus rubinus) have been reported a number of times in Mississippi, most frequently from a west-central area bordering the Mississippi River, in the southern part of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta, i.e., Washington and Issaquena counties (Alexander 1976, Cashman 1979). There is also a specimen from farther north in the Delta, at Rosedale, Bolivar County (Vaiden 1952). Additional sites of occurrence include the Gulf Coast counties (e.g., Jackson and Schardien 1980). Thus, a sighting of a Vermilion Flycatcher on the Sardis Waterfowl Refuge in northwestern Lafayette County extends the area of its known occurrence to north-central Mississippi.

On the afternoon of 5 October 1985 Theobald observed a brightly colored adult male Vermilion Flycatcher as it flew up repeatedly to pursue insects from its perch on a fenceline at the north edge of the resident manager's home and headquarters area. The bird was viewed by Theobald and Clark Littlejohn for 30 minutes from 5-15 m with 7 X 35 binoculars as it performed its typical flycatching behavior. Ponds were 30 and 60 m from the fence on which the flycatcher perched.

Davis and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Knight tried to locate the Vermilion Flycatcher on 6 October, but searches within several hundred meters of the place it was seen the previous day were unsuccessful. The bird was not seen again by refuge personnel.

Literature Cited

Alexander, G.E. 1976. Observations of the Vermilion Flycatcher: Washington County, Mississippi. Miss. Kite 6:2-4.

Cashman, L.P. 1979. Vermilion Flycatcher in Issaquena County, Mississippi. Miss. Kite 9:15.

Jackson, J.A., and B. Schardien. 1980. Birds around the state: August 1970-May 1980. Miss. Kite 10:10-20.

Vaiden, M.G. 1952. Birds of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta. Migrant 23:1-4.

First Nesting of the Cliff Swallow on the Mississippi Coast

James L. Spence and Judith A. Toups

Airport Road
Biloxi, MS 39532

4 Hartford Place
Gulfport, MS 39501

On 10 June 1986, Spence found 30 or more Cliff Swallows (Hirundo pyrrhonota) concentrated at a draw bridge which spans the East Pearl River on U.S. 90 at the boundary between Hancock County, Mississippi and St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. From the river bank, Spence saw at least two Cliff Swallow nests attached to supports beneath the bridge. They were above the tidal marsh on the east side (Hancock Co., Mississippi). Spence noted much activity around the nests and noted many other swallows which he presumed were making trips to nests beyond his vantage point. A few Barn Swallows (Hirundo rustica) were in the air above the west side of the bridge.

On 13 June, Toups and Dalton King counted 40 or more Cliff Swallows at the bridge. The tide was low at the time, affording a fairly close approach to the bridge supports on the east side. At least three Cliff Swallow nests were visible; two appeared nearly complete; the third was in an early stage of construction. All were attached to the concrete at an inside "elbow" and were seemingly attached to each other about 4 m above the river.

Swallows were gathering mud from just below the span and at least three were seen placing pellets on the existing nests. Many other Cliff Swallows gathered mud from the same area (less than one square meter) and flew with it between the concrete supports a few meters away. We have no doubt that other nests were under construction, although they were not visible to us. Photographs by Toups document this first nesting record for Cliff Swallows on the Mississippi coast and have been deposited in the ornithological files of the Department of Biological Sciences at Mississippi State University.

Until 1975, the Cliff Swallow was known to nest in Mississippi only in Tishomingo County, the northeasternmost county in the state (Turcotte 1975). Weber (1979) noted that by 1978 its breeding range in Mississippi had expanded to Grenada, Itawamba, Claiborne, and Hinds counties, and Jackson (1980)

included Panola, Yalobusha, Desoto, and Tate counties. All of the above counties are in the northern two-thirds of the state.

Prior to 1982, when Cliff Swallows nested along the Mobile Causeway in coastal Alabama, it was a common nesting species in Alabama only in the Tennessee Valley (Imhof 1976).

Lowery (1974) reported no nesting of the Cliff Swallow in Louisiana. The first occurred in 1980 at Cameron Parish, a southwest coastal area (Jackson 1980); others followed from the southeast coast and areas in north Louisiana. Since this swallow was found nesting at a bridge over the Middle Pearl River in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana in 1981 (Imhof 1982), less than 8 km west of the Mississippi border on U.S. 90, local birders have been actively searching for nests along the Mississippi coast. The nests reported here were just a few meters from being in Louisiana.

The confirmation of Mississippi coastal nesting continues a trend of this rapidly expanding species. In 1980, Jackson wrote "While Barn Swallows seemed to expand in orderly fashion down our highways, the expansion of the Cliff Swallows has been more erratic, crossing wide gaps in unpredictable directions, but predictably becoming established as a nesting species at major river crossings and reservoirs."

Literature Cited

Imhof, T.A. 1976. Alabama birds, 2nd ed. University of Alabama Press, University.

Imhof, T.A. 1982. The spring migration: Central southern region. Am. Birds 36:861-864.

Jackson, J.A. 1980. The nesting season: Central southern region. Am. Birds 34:902-904.

Jackson, J.A. 1983. The nesting season: Central southern region. Am. Birds 37:996-998.

Lowery, G.H. 1974. Louisiana birds, 3rd ed. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge.

Turcotte, W.H. 1975. Breeding range extension of the Cliff Swallow. Miss. Ornithol. Soc. Newsletter 20(3):21-22.

Weber, W.C. 1979. Recent notes on the Cliff Swallow in Mississippi. Miss. Kite 9:7-8.

Laughing Gull and Franklin's Gull Records From North Mississippi

W. Marvin Davis

School of Pharmacy
University of Mississippi
University, Mississippi 38677

The past few years have provided new and surprising observations of Laughing (Larus atricilla) and Franklin's (L. pipixcan) gulls at the flood-control reservoirs of north Mississippi. Sightings of both species deviated from the seasonal patterns of occurrence for previous years, and for the first time, both species were found simultaneously at one observation point.

Before January 1983, I had observed Laughing Gulls in inland Mississippi on seven dates in five prior years, always in the spring (from 16 April through 15 May). All records were at Sardis Lake except for one at Enid Lake (27 April 1968). Single birds were seen except for two on 15 May 1982 at Sardis dam. This pattern of seasonal occurrence was broken when I found two adults at Grenada Lake on 29 January 1983, a date when I would have though Franklin's Gull to be more likely. They were seen among a flock of Ring-billed (L. delawarensis) and Bonaparte's (L. philadelphia) gulls resting on the water just above the dam near the outlet tower. Both individuals spread their wings, briefly enabling a clear view of the wingtips, which showed no white intervening between the black outer primaries and the dark gray of the mantle. The head pattern was that of the winter plumage adult, rather than of the immature. The two individuals were not close together during my 20 minutes of observation. On 4 May 1983, I found two Laughing Gulls at Lower Lake, about 75 m from two Franklin's Gulls (see below).

More recent Laughing Gull records include: (1) an adult at Lower Lake (below the Sardis dam) on 8 May 1984 in the company of 33 Ring-billed Gulls, and (2) three in breeding plumage at Lower Lake on 3 May 1986. These records extend the series of spring occurrences for the species at that locality to include five out of the past eight years.

My three Franklin's Gull records prior to 1983 were all during the fall: an immature on 27 October 1968 at Grenada Lake; 7 adults on 27 November 1972 at Lower Lake between the

outlet channel of Sardis dam and the old channel of the Tallahatchie River; and one adult on 10 December 1972 at Lower Lake. Therefore, I was surprised on the late afternoon of 4 May 1983 to find two Franklin's Gulls in breeding plumage on a sandy peninsula on the south side of Lower Lake. The birds were standing about 25 m from one another among a group of about 100 Ring-billed and 30 Bonaparte's gulls. They were distinguished from Laughing Gulls by their smaller size and by the presence of white in the wingtip, which was detectable while they were standing and was fully confirmed when they flew. Both Franklin's and Laughing gulls were still present on the morning of 5 May. The rate of discharge of water from Sardis Lake had by then increased enough that the exposed sandy area on the south side of Lower Lake was covered. All gulls and terns present were then resting only on the north shore beach. This brought the Laughing and Franklin's gulls near enough to one another to make a direct comparison. The overall smaller size of the Franklin's Gull could be readily noted. The Laughing Gulls seemed clearly to show a greater relative bill-to-head size than that of the Franklin's. Again, it seemed that one could readily detect the white-in-wingtips feature of the Franklin's Gulls, and its absence in the Laughing Gulls, even without their flying or spreading their wings while standing.

More recent Franklin's Gull records include: (1) an adult at Lower Lake on 21 May 1984 in company of eight Ring-billed Gulls, and (2) an immature at Sardis Waterfowl Refuge on 1 November 1984 with a flock of Ring-billed Gulls.

While the migratory habits of Franklin's Gull can certainly account for its occurrence as a spring or fall transient in north Mississippi, the same cannot be said for the Laughing Gull. It is difficult to explain the increased rate of occurrences in this area since 1979. It is noteworthy that the recent "first documented record" of the Laughing Gull in Arkansas was a fall record of one photographed on 13 October 1982, at Lake Millwood (Am. Birds 37:191, 1982).

Massachusetts-Hacked Bald Eagle on the Mississippi Coast

Jerome A. Jackson and Jack E. Swedberg

Dept. of Biological Sciences
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Div. of Fisheries and Wildlife
Westboro, MA 01581

On 15 October 1983, an immature Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) was discovered in a Biloxi, Mississippi neighborhood, very close to Biloxi Bay. The eagle had a blue tag on the right wing and was observed by numerous birders following announcement on local television stations of the presence of the bird. It remained in the area for at least a week. On 24 October it was photographed in a tall pine in Evergreen Cemetery, across Biloxi Bay in Ocean Springs. That photo was published in the Ocean Springs newspaper (The Record, p. 24, 27 October 1983). There were no confirmed sightings of the bird after 24 October, although an eagle was seen flying over Ocean Springs neighborhoods on at least three occasions during the next few days.

Data provided to Jackson by the Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland, indicated that the eagle was one marked by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Swedburg, director of the Massachusetts eagle hacking program, was able to identify the individual as one of two eaglets in a nest in a jack pine (Pinus banksiana) near Bissett, Manitoba. It was removed on 13 July 1983 for the hacking program by U.S. and Canadian biologists. Its nest mate was left to fledge naturally.

The eaglet was banded with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band number 629-13924 and was equipped with a radio transmitter and fitted with a light blue tag on its right wing before being released near New Salem, Massachusetts, on 16 August 1983. When it was released, it flew north for a few miles, then disappeared. It was next seen in Mississippi. Two of the other birds released in the Massachusetts hacking program in 1983 were still near their release sites as of early February 1984.

The presence of the eagle in a residential area in Mississippi and its apparent lack of response to human observers

suggest that it might have been in a weakened condition and/or that it was partially imprinted on humans. Although tolerant of observers, at no time did it approach humans.

Acknowledgments

We appreciate information on sightings of this bird from Michael Collins, Charliene Roemer, and Judy Toups. We also greatly appreciate the efforts of Kathy Klimkiewicz and other personnel at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland, in helping us piece together the story of this eagle.

A Sight Record of Townsend's Solitaire in Newton County, Mississippi

Joseph M. McGee

Route 1, Box 148
Hickory, Mississippi 39332

On 8 November 1985 at 0800, I observed an adult Townsend's Solitaire (Myadestes townsendi) for about five minutes in my parent's front yard on U.S. highway 80, 2.4 km east of Hickory, Newton Co., Mississippi. This is the first report of Townsend's Solitaire for Mississippi.

I first saw the solitaire as it flew, along with several Eastern Bluebirds (Sialia sialis), into a small overcup oak (Quercus lyrata). I did not have binoculars with me, and although the bird was only 10 m from me, I could see few field marks because it was backlit by the sun. Although it was the size of a Northern Mockingbird (Mimus polyglottos), several obvious characteristics caused me to realize it was not that species. The solitaire's general behavior was quite different from that of a mockingbird. As it perched, it displayed a certain "delicate airiness," reminiscent of an Eastern Bluebird, as it settled its wings. Its bill was smaller and daintier than that of a mockingbird, and the tail had a pronounced notch at the tip.

When I approached it, the solitaire flew into a nearby water oak (Quercus nigra). I then obtained binoculars (9 X 35) and was able to observe the bird in excellent light from about 5 m. I then immediately recognized the bird as a Townsend's Solitaire, a species I have observed many times in several western states.

Overall the bird was a uniform brownish-gray. It had a distinct whitish eye ring, but no other obvious head or facial features. The throat and belly areas were whitish-gray and slightly paler than the remainder of the body plumage. However, this color difference was not very pronounced. The wing and tail feathers were only slightly darker than the body plumage.

The solitaire flew to several perches in the same oak. As it flew, I could see a thin white border along the entire length of each side of the tail and distinct orangish patches at the bases of the primaries and secondaries. The bill was small, dark gray, and similar in shape to that of an Eastern Bluebird. The feet were also dark gray. I did not hear the bird vocalize.

The Townsend's Solitaire flew from the water oak and disappeared into an eastern redcedar (Juniperus virginiana) growing near a small grove of loblolly pines (Pinus taeda). I did not see it again, and efforts by other birders later in the day were also unsuccessful.

The weather on the day of the observation was sunny and mild all day. There was no cloud cover, and winds were light and variable, mainly from the north.

The habitat in which the Townsend's Solitaire was seen was an open lawn with scattered trees and shrubs surrounding a house. The lawn was surrounded by essentially the same type of habitat: open pasture with scattered trees. The non-breeding habitat of Townsend's Solitaire is usually thought to be open woodland, pinyon-juniper association, chaparrel, desert, or riparian woodland.

The Northern Mockingbird is probably the only North American species with which the Townsend's Solitaire could be confused. A Northern Mockingbird was present in the yard at the time the Townsend's Solitaire was seen, affording direct comparison.

Townsend's Solitaire is a bird of western North America (American Ornithologists' Union 1983). The eastern limit of its winter range is ordinarily western Missouri, western Oklahoma, and central Texas. However, records indicate that the species has occurred as far east as New York, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Literature Cited

American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. Check-list of North American birds. 6th ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

Juvenile Loggerhead Shrike "Begging" from its Prey

Fred L. Burnside and Jerome A. Jackson

Department of Biological Sciences
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, MS 39762

On 27 August 1985, at 08:30, we observed a juvenile Loggerhead Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus) perched on a fence on the Mississippi State University South Farm in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. We dropped a bal-chatri trap containing a half-grown brown laboratory mouse (Mus musculus) in view of the shrike and drove on to give the shrike an opportunity to come to the trap. We returned to the site 3 minutes later and the juvenile shrike was eating an insect while perched on the wire fence. As we were watching, it noticed the mouse in the trap and flew to it, landing on the ground beside the trap. The shrike hopped around the trap, repeatedly lowering its head and tail, fluttering its wings, opening its beak, and uttering begging calls. Although the head was lower than the back, the shrike's eyes and bill were continually oriented toward the mouse. The tail was lowered slightly, but the rectrices were not spread. There were about 14 begging sequences (bowing-fluttering-calling) from various positions around the mouse. Each lasted 4-5 seconds. After about 5 minutes of circling the mouse, the juvenile shrike finally hopped on the trap, attempted to reach the mouse inside, and was caught in the snares on the trap.

Smith (1973a) described a similar "flutter" display in Loggerhead Shrikes and hypothesized that its function is primarily for territorial defense. In the flutter display, the shrike holds its body in a horizontal position, lowers its head with the bill at approximately a 45 degree angle to the ground, flutters its wings, and spreads its tail. Smith noted that Loggerhead Shrikes only give this display when another shrike is present. She (1973b) also found that an approximately 24-day-old shrike spends a great deal of time "hopping along the ground, stopping, bowing forward with fluttering wings and then seizing an object in its bill."

Cade (1962) found that Northern Shrikes (L. excubitor) often flutter their wings and spread the tail in an attempt to flush prey during hunting bouts.

We have both observed Loggerhead Shrike fledglings give a begging display before being fed by their parents. In these instances, the young birds lowered their bodies to a horizontal position, fluttered their wings, oriented their eyes and opened beak toward the parent, and gave begging calls. We could discern no difference between such begging and the behavior of this fledgling toward the mouse. Differences between this begging display and the flutter display described by Smith are: (1) In the begging display, the bill and eyes are oriented toward the food source, whereas in the flutter display they are oriented toward the ground. (2) Vocalizations are a conspicuous part of the begging display, but not the flutter display. (3) The tail was not spread during the begging display, but is during the flutter display.

We feel that the juvenile shrike was indeed begging from its intended prey and offer the following as a possible explanation for such behavior. When the parent shrike brings food to the nest, the young respond by begging. Because they must compete with their siblings for food, their gaze may be fixed on the food, rather than on the adult bringing it. When the parent holds the food close enough, the nestling grabs it, but must be quick or the food may be taken by a sibling. During the transition to self-feeding, the fledgling may first pass through a phase where it recognizes potential food on sight, and responds as it did in the nest - by begging. If the food starts to move away, the fledgling then pounces. We feel that the fledgling shrike may have to learn that begging isn't needed in order to get food and that the quicker the "pounce," the more likely it will be to capture the prey.

Such begging might cause potential prey to flush, as suggested by Cade, and thus might be retained in the birds' foraging repertoire. We can also see how this "flutter-before-pouncing" sequence might have become a territorial display such as described by Smith. The flutter may signal an intruder that the territory holder is about to pounce on him and that the intruder should therefore leave. Smith (1973a) also suggested that the flutter display might indicate a "high attack-tendency."

Literature Cited

Cade, T.J. 1962. Wing movements, hunting, and displays of the Northern Shrike. Wilson Bull. 74:386-408.

Smith, S.M. 1973a. An aggressive display and related behavior in the Loggerhead Shrike. Auk 90:287-298.

Smith, S.M. 1973b. A study of prey-attack behavior in young Loggerhead Shrikes, Lanius ludovicianus L. Behaviour 44:113-141.

Birds Around the State: December 1985-May 1986

Compiled by Jerome A. Jackson

Department of Biological Sciences
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

The following is a summary of noteworthy bird sightings in Mississippi for the period 1 December 1985 through 31 May 1986. The sequence of information in each account is: species, number, date, place, observer(s). Numbers of birds sighted are underlined. The significance of sightings is indicated by a letter in parentheses following a record. These letters are as follows: (A) = arrival date, (D) = departure date, (E) = early date, (L) = late date, (N) = unusually large number, (R) = species rare in area. Other abbreviations used include the following: m = male, f = female, imm = immature, ad = adult, pr = pair, pl = plumage, CBC = Christmas Bird Count, BBS = Breeding Bird Survey of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, PRM = Pascagoula River Marsh, WMA = Wildlife Management Area. The list of sightings is followed by keys to observers' initials and new or unusual localities mentioned. Localities that have been frequently cited in past issues of "Birds Around the State" and identified in previous keys may not be included in the present key.

Contributions of records are welcome from anyone who makes observations of Mississippi birds. Only with the assistance of many individuals from throughout the state over a period of years can we come to understand the dynamics of the bird populations of Mississippi. Contributors should submit records on 3 X 5 inch cards or similar-sized slips of paper with the following information: species, number seen, date (including year), location (county and distance and direction from nearest town), observer(s), and details and significance of observation. While records are welcome at any time, those received by 15 March, 15 June, 15 August, and 15 December will be submitted with the seasonal report to American Birds as well as being considered for use in the Mississippi Kite. All records should be submitted to: Jerome A. Jackson
Department of Biological Sciences
Box Z
Mississippi State, MS 39762

RED-THROATED LOON -- 1, basic pl, 10 Apr., Lakeshore, JT, DK (R)
COMMON LOON -- about 100, 10 Jan., Harrison and Hancock cos., JT, MB, DK, GM; about 50, 14 Mar., Port of Gulfport, JT, JS; 1, 19 Apr., catfish ponds, 2 mi. w. LeFlore, MD, GK
PIED-BILLED GREBE -- 7, 21 Mar., Blount Pond, Hickory, JM; ad with 3 chicks, 19 May, Big Point, Jackson Co., JT, DK
HORNED GREBE -- 3, 22 Feb., Ocean Springs, JJ
EARED GREBE -- 1, 8, 14, 18 Dec., Waveland sewage lagoon, JT, MH; 2, 29 Dec., 1 Jan., Sardis dam, MD (R); 1, 18 Mar., Waveland lagoon, JT
NORTHERN GANNET -- 1 imm, 26 Dec., Gulfport, JT, MH (R on mainland)
AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN -- 50, 10 Mar., Jackson, SP, CP; 80, 11-16 Mar., 5 mi. n Yazoo NWR, JF; 1, 29 May, ca 15 miles up Pascagoula R., Jackson Co., JT, CD, DK, JI
BROWN PELICAN -- 12, 18 Dec., s Hancock Co. CBC, JT, MH; 1 imm, Biloxi, JJ
GREAT CORMORANT -- 1 imm (photos), 22 Feb., PRM, JJ
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- 2, 8 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JJ
ANHINGA -- 2, 3 Jan., s of Lizana, JS, HC, CC (R in winter); 1-3, 14 Jan.-28 Feb., Lizana, JT, m.ob.; 2, 16 May, Barnett Reservoir, Madison Co., JM; 1 pr, at Great Blue Heron colony half way between Hickory and Newton, JM
MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD -- 5 ad m, 3 imm, 1 Dec., Biloxi, MH
AMERICAN BITTERN -- 1, 23 Mar., Hickory, JM
LEAST BITTERN -- 3, 2 May, Lakeshore, JT, CR, DK
GREAT EGRET -- 1, 10, 24 Jan., Hickory, JM
SNOWY EGRET -- 1, 13 Feb., catfish pond near Isola, Humphrey's Co., JF; 2, 22 Feb., Ocean Springs, JJ
LITTLE BLUE HERON -- 256, 18 Dec., s Hancock Co. CBC (N)
TRICOLORED HERON -- 84, 18 Dec., s Hancock Co. CBC, (N)
REDDISH EGRET -- 1, 14, 26 Dec., Harrison Co., JT; 2, 14, 26 Dec., Hancock Co., JT; 1, 1 Mar.-2 May, Clermont Harbor, JT, m.ob.
CATTLE EGRET -- 1, 27 Dec., 5, 28 Dec., Sardis Waterfowl Refuge, VT, PB; 15-30, Dec.- 28 Feb., Harrison and Hancock cos., JT, JS; 2, 29 Dec., Grenada L., Grenada Co., JT, MH, m.ob. (R winter); 1 alternate pl, 1 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JJ
GREEN-BACKED HERON -- 1, 18 & 21 Dec., Grenada sewage lagoon, LC, MD; 1, 29 Dec., Grenada lagoon, Grenada Co., JT, MH, m.ob.; 1, 22 Feb., Lucky's Corner, JJ, JT
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON -- 8 ad, 25 Jan., PRM, JT, DK; 3 ad, 2 imm, 23 Feb., Ocean Springs harbor, JJ; 1 ad, 31 Mar., Ocean Springs harbor, MH, JT
YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON -- 1 imm, 23 Feb., PRM, JJ; 17 ad, 29 May, along lower Pascagoula R., Jackson Co., JT, m.ob.

WHITE IBIS -- 1 imm, 1 ad, 23 Feb., PRM, JJ
Plegadis sp. -- 1, 14 Mar., Tramark Golf Course, Gulfport, JT, JS
TUNDRA SWAN -- 7, first 3 weeks of Feb., 5 mi. e Hollandale, m.ob. (fide JF)
WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- 300-350, end of Dec.-early Feb., 1000, 9 Feb., 2000, 16 Feb., 10, 20 Feb., Yazoo NWR, JF
SNOW GOOSE -- 600 (mixed flock flying over), 1 Dec., Yazoo NWR, JF; 40-400, Dec.-Jan., Yazoo NWR, JF; 1400, 22 Jan., 4000, 9 Feb., 3000, 16 Feb., 1500, 19 Feb., Yazoo NWR, JF 1 blue, 1 snow, 11 Jan., Noxubee NWR, JJ; 1 blue, Turcotte Lab, Barnett Reservoir, JJ; 110, 80, 12 (3 flocks), 8 Mar., over Tunica, KO
ROSS' GOOSE -- 1, 16 Feb., 4, 19 Feb., Yazoo NWR, JF (1st state record)
CANADA GOOSE -- 3000, Jan., Yazoo NWR, JF
WOOD DUCK -- 24, 22 Jan., Jackson Marsh, JT, GM, DK, MB; 1 ad, 4 young, 27 Apr., Waveland lagoon and also at Lakeshore, JT.
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK -- 600, Jan., Yazoo NWR, JF; 2, 27 Feb., Clermont Harbor, JT, MB, DK
MOTTLED DUCK -- 2 ad, 27 Apr., Marsh Point, Ocean Springs, JJ; 3 ad, each with a brood of 7-10 young, 27 Apr., Lakeshore, JT
MALLARD -- 50,000-80,000, Jan., Yazoo NWR, JF
NORTHERN PINTAIL -- 200, 4 Dec., 150, 5 Jan., Yazoo NWR, JF
BLUE-WINGED TEAL -- 1 m, 21 Dec., Grenada sewage lagoon, MD; 2 pr, 1 m, 26 Apr., PRM, JJ
RING-NECKED DUCK -- 1 f (flew well), 19 Apr., 17 May, catfish ponds w. of LeFlore, MD, GK (L)
GREATER SCAUP -- 13+, 18 Dec., s Hancock Co. CBC; 30+, 15, 16 Feb., n of Horn I., JT, AJ
OLDSQUAW -- 1 m, 1 f, 7, 10, 18, 21 Dec., Grenada Sewage Lagoon, MD, GK; 1 f or imm, 10 Dec., Gulfport, GM, CC, MH (A); 5, 5 Mar., Biloxi, JT, DK; 35, 31 Mar., n of Horn I., JT, MH
SURF SCOTER -- 1 m, 4 Apr., Waveland lagoon, JT, CC
COMMON GOLDENEYE -- 1 f, 22 Feb., Gulfport, JJ
HOODED MERGANSER -- 1120-1200, 28 Dec. & 11 Jan., Sardis L., BC, LC, MD (N); 11, 10 Jan., Hickory sewage pond, JM; 250-300, 29-30 Dec., Grenada L., Grenada Co., JT, m.ob.
COMMON MERGANSER -- 1 f, 2, 16, 21 Feb., 1, 16 Apr., 3 & 12 May, Lower Lake, Sardis Dam, MD
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER -- 1 f, 3 May, Grenada Dam, MD, GK
RUDDY DUCK -- 1, 2 May, Waveland lagoon, JT, DK, CR
BLACK VULTURE -- 15, 22 May, roost near Kiln, JT, DK
TURKEY VULTURE -- 10, 22 May, roost near Kiln, JT, DK

OSPREY -- up to 7, 15-16 Feb., Horn I., JT et al.; 1, 23 Feb., Davis Bayou, Ocean Springs, JJ; 1, 19 Apr., Lake Lincoln, CM; at least 8, 31 Mar., Horn I., MH, JT

AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE -- 11, 29 May, along Pascagoula R., Jackson Co., JT, JI, DK, CD

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE -- 1, 4, 14, 18 Dec., Port Bienville, JT, MH, JS, m.ob.; 1, 10 Dec., Lucky's Corner, CC, GM, MH

MISSISSIPPI KITE -- 6, 29 May, Pascagoula R., near Wade, JT, DK, CD, JI

BALD EAGLE -- 6, 18 Dec., Grenada L., MD; 2 ad, 9 imm, 21 Dec., Enid Reservoir, MD; 8, 28 Dec., Sardis L., MD; 1 ad, 11 Jan., Noxubee NWR, JJ, LN, DI; 2 ad, 2 nestlings, 20 Jan. near Biloxi R., Harrison Co., JS; pr on nest, 23 Jan.-3 Mar., near Eagle Lake, near Vicksburg, HM, JB; 2 imm, 22 Feb., Sardis L., MD; 2 well-feathered yg, 23 Feb., Biloxi R. nest, JJ

NORTHERN HARRIER -- 1 f or imm, 21 Apr., Hickory, JM; 1 m, 17 May, n side of Grenada L., MD, GK

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK -- 1, 10 Feb., Jackson, SP, CP; 1 ad f, 15 Feb., Horn I., JT; 1, 9 Mar., Yazoo NWR, JF

COOPER'S HAWK -- 2, 4 Dec., 1, 6 Dec., Yazoo NWR, JF; 1, 8 Dec., Bayou Cassotte, MH, JT; 1 ad f, 1 imm f, 22 Jan., Port Bienville, JT, GM, DK, MB; pr courting, 16 Mar., Hinds Co., SP, CP; 1, 30 May, Hickory (mobbed at Purple Martin colony), JM

BROAD-WINGED HAWK -- 1, 31 Mar., Horn I., MH, JT (A); 1, 11 May, near Lost Gap exit on I-20, Lauderdale Co., JM; 1, 23 May, Pearl, JM;

RED-TAILED HAWK -- 2 (copulating), 19 Apr., Hickory, JM

AMERICAN KESTREL -- 1, 3 Jan., Hickory, JM; pr, 27 Apr., Waveland, JT; 1, 19 May, PRM, JT, DK

MERLIN -- 1, 5 Dec., Yazoo NWR, JF; 1, 10 Apr., Hancock Co., JT, DK

PEREGRINE FALCON -- 1, 8 Dec., PRM, JT, MH; 1, 5 Mar., PRM, JT, DK

WILD TURKEY -- nest, 21 Apr., Logtown, LB (fide JT)

KING RAIL, 4 heard, 8 Feb., marsh ca 9 mi. ne Oxford, MD, GK

PURPLE GALLINULE -- 3, 10 Apr., Jackson Marsh, JT, DK (A); 5, 29 May, lower Pascagoula R., Jackson Co., JT, DK, JI, CD

COMMON MOORHEN -- 4, 16 May, Barnett Reservoir, Madison Co., JM

AMERICAN COOT -- 200+, 2 Mar., Lake Claude Bennett, Jasper Co., JM

LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER -- 4, 8 Mar., L. Arkabutla, KO; 3, 11 Mar., 1, 12 Mar., 25, 14 & 15 Mar., 12, 21 Mar., Hickory, JM; 1, 14 Mar, 50, 16 Mar, 49, 23 Mar., 12, 31 Mar., Yocona R. bottom, Lafayette Co., GK, MD; 20-25, 14 Mar., Tramark Golf Course, Gulfport, JT, JS; 3, 22 Mar., wet field, Panola Co., MD; 1, 10 Apr., Hickory, JM

SNOWY PLOVER -- 2, 29 Jan., Gulfport, JT, DK (R)

WILSON'S PLOVER -- 1, 21 Dec., PRM, MH, HC, CC (R in winter); 2 nests (3 eggs each), 26 Apr., PRM, JJ; 10 ad, 19 May, PRM, JT, DK

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER -- about 50, 22 Apr., PRM, JT, PL, LB; 30, 29 Apr. and 3 May, Clear Creek, backwaters of Sardis L., MD (N)

PIPING PLOVER -- 2-4, 28 Mar.-2 May, PRM, MH, JT, JJ, m.ob.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER -- 2, 10, 14 Jan., Waveland, JT, m.ob.

BLACK-NECKED STILT -- ca 50, 8 Dec., PRM, MH, JT; about 10 large chicks, 19 May, PRM, JT, DK

AMERICAN AVOCET -- 3, 8 Mar., 150+, 22 Apr., PRM, JT, JJ, m.ob.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS -- 25, 18 Dec., Grenada L., MD et al.; 1, 8 Mar., L. Arkabutla, KO

SOLITARY SANDPIPER -- 8, 15 Apr., Hancock Co., JT, CD

SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- 1, 22 Feb., Gulfport, JJ; 2, alternate pl, 29 May, lower Pascagoula R., Jackson Co., JT, DK

UPLAND SANDPIPER -- 2, 25 Mar., Kiln, MH, JT, GM (A); 1, 10-11 Apr., Hickory, JM

WHIMBREL -- 1, 19 May, PRM, JT, DK; 1, 19 May, Greenwood I., JT, DK

RED KNOT -- 57, 26 Dec., 74, 29 Jan., Long Beach, JT, MH, DK

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER -- 3, 15 Apr., Waveland, JT, CD (A); 1000+, 19 May, PRM, JT, DK

WESTERN SANDPIPER -- ca 3000, 5 Mar., PRM, JT, DK (N); 4, 8 Mar., PRM, JT, DK

LEAST SANDPIPER -- 4, 15 Jan., Starkville, JJ

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER -- 1, 22 Apr., Hancock Co., JT (A); 20, 19 May, PRM, JT

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER -- 3, 22 Mar., PRM, JT, m.ob. (R)

PECTORAL SANDPIPER -- ca 100, 5 Mar., PRM, JT, DK (A); 30, 8 Mar., L. Arkabutla, KO

STILT SANDPIPER -- 2, 21 Dec., HC, CC, MH; 1 alternate pl, 5 Mar., PRM, JT, DK (A); ca 400, 26 Apr., PRM, JT, JJ, DK, m.ob. (N)

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER -- 2, 22 Apr., PRM, PL, LB, JT (A)

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER -- 50+ (voice ID), 5 Mar., PRM, JT, DK

Dowitcher spp. -- 1000+, 8 Dec., PRM, JT, MH; about 500, mostly Long-billed, 2 May, PRM, JT, DK, CR

AMERICAN WOODCOCK -- 1, 29 Dec., Vicksburg, HM

WILSON'S PHALAROPE -- 5+, 22 Apr., PRM, JT, PL, LB

FRANKLIN'S GULL -- 1 imm, 4 Dec., Long Beach, JT, MH, JS
BONAPARTE'S GULL -- 5, 21 Mar., Yazoo NWR, JF; 200, 22 Mar., 50, 10 Apr., none, 26 Apr., Lower L., Sardis Dam, MD
RING-BILLED GULL -- 100, 6 Dec., 300, 30 Dec., Yazoo NWR, JF
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL -- 1 ad, 18 Mar., Gulfport, JH, JT (present since 29 Oct. 1985, thought to be same bird making 4th winter visit)
GULL-BILLED TERN -- 2, 28 Mar., Lakeshore, JT, MH, CD (A); 6, 27 Apr., PRM, JJ
CASPIAN TERN -- 1, 26 Apr., PRM, JJ
SANDWICH TERN -- 1 ad, 1 Dec., Long Beach, MH; ca 50, 31 Mar., e tip Horn I., MH, JT
COMMON TERN -- 2 ad, 1 2nd summer, 19 May, Ocean Springs, JT, DK
FORSTER'S TERN -- 3, 10 Dec., Grenada dam, MD; 1 alternate pl, 15 Apr., Bluff L., Noxubee NWR, JJ
RINGED TURTLE-DOVE -- 1, 2 Mar., Gulfport (at feeder; probable escapee), JT
COMMON GROUND-DOVE -- 1, 5-7 May, Hickory, JM (R)
COMMON BARN-OWL -- 1, 19 Apr., Hickory, JM
GREAT HORNED OWL -- 10, 18 Dec., s Hancock Co. CBC
CHUCK-WILLS WIDOW -- 1, 26 Apr., Moss Hill, Jasper Co., JM
WHIP-POOR-WILL -- 1 f, 3 Dec., Gulfport, JT
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD -- 2, 23 Mar., Hickory, JM
RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 imm m, 2-13 Dec., Diamondhead (at feeder), DH (fide JT)
Archilochus sp. -- 1, 13-14 Dec., Gulfport (at feeder), JH (fide JT, DK)
Selasphorus sp. -- 1, 13-14 Dec., Gulfport (at feeder), JH (fide JT, DK)
Hummingbird sp. -- 3-4, 4 Jan., Biloxi (at feeder; all non-descript), BH (R)
BELTED KINGFISHER -- 2, 14 Mar., at burrow along MS highway 503, Jasper Co., JM; 10, 29 May, along lower Pascagoula R., JT, DK, CD, JI
RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER -- 1, 19 Jan., near Larue Community, JS, MS, EJ
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER -- 2, 13 May, Logtown, DK, GM, JS
2 singing, 29 May, along Pascagoula R., Jackson Co., JT, DK
VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- 1 m, 20 Dec.-28 Feb., Lizana, JT, DK, JJ; JD & AM saw 2 m at same locality during period
WESTERN KINGBIRD -- 1, 8 Dec., PRM, JT, MH
NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- 7, 20 Mar., Hancock Co., JT, MB, LS (A); 40-50, 29 May, along Pascagoula R., Jackson Co., JT, m.ob.

CLIFF SWALLOW -- 1, 18 Mar., Waveland lagoon, JT (A); 1, 22 May, catfish pond near Kiln, JT, DK
BARN SWALLOW -- 6, 14 Mar., Hancock Co., JT, JS (A)
FISH CROW -- 16, 18 Jan., Enid dam, MD; 8, 1 Feb., Sardis dam, MD
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 4, 6 Dec., 8, 28 Dec., seen into Feb., Oxford & Sardis L, MD; 2, 18 Dec., s Hancock Co. CBC; 2, 28 Mar., Pascagoula R. WMA, MH, JT, CD
BROWN CREEPER -- 1, 4 Jan., Hickory, JM; 1, 23 Feb, 22 Mar., Jackson, Hinds Co., SP, CP
BEWICK'S WREN -- at least 2, 29-30 Dec., Grenada Co., JT, MH, DK, m.ob.; 1, 7 Jan., Hickory, JM (R)
HOUSE WREN -- 1, 1 Jan., Hickory, JM
WINTER WREN -- 3, 1 Jan., Hickory, JM
SEDGE WREN -- 1, 10 Dec., below Grenada dam, MD; 3, 8 Jan., Hickory, JM
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 18, 18 Dec., s Hancock Co. CBC
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO -- 1, 25 Mar., Jackson, SP
WARBLING VIREO -- 1, 3 May, Gulfport, JT (R)
PHILADELPHIA VIREO -- 1, 3 May, Gulfport, JT (A)
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER -- 1 m (singing), 18 Apr., Hickory, JM
TENNESSEE WARBLER -- 1 m, 24 Apr., Hickory, JM
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 1, 4, 7 Jan., 18 Apr., Hickory, JM
NASHVILLE WARBLER -- 1 m, 21 May, 10 mi. n Oxford, Lafayette Co., MD (L)
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER -- 2 m, 24 Apr., Hickory, JM
CAPE MAY WARBLER -- 1 f, 29 Apr., Hickory, JM
BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER -- 1 m, 26 Apr., Ocean Springs, JT, DK (A)
YELLOW-RUMPED (Myrtle) WARBLER -- 1, 2 May, Ansley, CR, DK, JT (D)
BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER -- 1 m, 16 Dec., Bay St. Louis, LS; 1 m, 18 Dec., Waveland lagoon, GM, CC; 1 m, 22 Mar., Jackson, SP
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER -- 6 singing, 14 Mar., Logtown, JT, JS; ad feeding 2 fledglings, 13 May, Logtown, DK, GM, JS
PRAIRIE WARBLER -- 34 singing, 22 May, along 13 mi. of Texas Flat Rd., Kiln, JT, DK (N); nestling photographed, 22 May, Kiln, JT, DK
PALM WARBLER -- 9, 28 Dec., below Sardis dam, BC, LC
BLACKPOLL WARBLER -- 2, 26 Apr., 6, 30 Apr., Gulfport, JT (A)
AMERICAN REDSTART -- several f collecting nest material, 12 May, Hickory, JM
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER -- 1, 18 Mar., Logtown, JT (A)
WORM-EATING WARBLER -- 1 m, 21 May, Wall Doxey State Park, Marshall Co., MD

SWAINSON'S WARBLER -- 1, 9 May, D'Lo Water Park, JT; 3 singing, 22 May, near Jourdan R., Kiln, JT, DK; 2 singing, 29 May, along Pascagoula R., Jackson Co., JT, DK
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH -- 1, 11 Apr., Chunky R. Access Area, Newton Co., JM
KENTUCKY WARBLER -- 1, 9 May, D'Lo Water Park, JT
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT -- 63 singing, 22 May, along Texas Flat Rd., Kiln, JT, DK (N)
SCARLET TANAGER -- 1 m, 1 f, 18 Apr., Hickory, JM
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK -- 1, 1 May, Starkville, JJ, BJ (A)
BLUE GROSBEAK -- 1 f, 4 Mar., Woolmarket, JS, WM, VM (E)
INDIGO BUNTING -- 1 imm m, 24 Jan., Gulfport (at feeder), JT
PAINTED BUNTING -- 1 m, 21 Apr., Hickory, JM; 4 singing, 19 May, Greenwood I., JT, DK
DICKCISSEL -- 1, 24 Apr., Bay St. Louis, LS; 1 m (singing), 27 Apr., Hickory, JM (A)
LARK SPARROW -- 1, 24 Apr., 14 mi. sw Oxford, Lafayette Co., MD (R)
LECONTE'S SPARROW -- 3+, 14 Jan., Lizana, JT, LS
LINCOLN'S SPARROW -- 1, 30 Dec., near Grenada airport, JT, m.ob.
LAPLAND LONGSPUR -- 60, 7 Dec., Grenada airport, MD, GK; several, 29-30 Dec., Grenada airport, MH, JT, DK, m.ob.
BOBOLINK -- 8 m, 26 Apr., PRM, JJ, DI, JB; 2 m, 3 f, 2 May, PRM, JT, CR, DK
WESTERN MEADOWLARK -- 1 heard, 22 Feb., Sardis Waterfowl Refuge, MD, GK
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD -- 1 f, 27-29 Mar., Jourdan R. Shores, RR (R)
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD -- 577, 18 Dec., s Hancock Co. CBC (N)
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD -- 10,000-15,000, 1 Mar., MS highway 9W nw of Bruce ca 7 mi., MD, GK
PURPLE FINCH -- 1 m, 5 Dec., Biloxi, MB (A); good numbers throughout state this winter, JJ
HOUSE FINCH -- 1 m, 28 Apr.-11 May, Biloxi, GP, JP (R, photo)
PINE SISKIN -- 30, 5 May, 2, 9 May, 1, 24 May, Oxford, MD
EVENING GROSBEAK -- 2 m, 1 f, 21 Mar., Hickory, JM; 12 (small flocks present since Jan.), 1 Apr., Diamondhead, ND, RWh; 15, 3 May, Starkville, JJ (D); most left early May, 1 f, 11 May, Oxford, MD; 1 f, through May, Columbus, RW

Contributors

Mickey Baker, Philip Barbour, Louis Bevier, Chita Cassibry, Hugh Cassibry, Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Lula Coffey, Jane Dacey, Marvin Davis, Sandra Davis, Charley Delmas, Nell Ducomb, Vic Duvic,

John Fulton, Julie Hatten (JHa), Malcolm Hodges, Jim Holmes, Doris Hope, Bill Hubler, Danny Ingold, John Izral, Bette J.S. Jackson, Jerome A. Jackson, Al Jenkins, Evelyn Johnson, Dalton King, Gene Knight, Paul Lehman, Joe McGee, A.J. McMurphey, Carolyn Mengelson, W.G. Miles, Velma Miles, Gerry Morgan, Lori Nichols, Karl Overman, Carole Peterson, Steve Peterson, Gloria Poston, Jay Poston, Charliene Roemer, Ray Russell, Lydia Schultz, Jim Spence, Martha Spence, Vic Theobald, Judy Toups, Ray Weeks, Ray Whalen (RWh)

Key to New or Unusual Localities

Ansley = Hancock Co.; Bayou Cassotte = Jackson Co.; Big Point = cooling ponds in Jackson Co.; Diamondhead = Hancock Co.; D'Lo Water Park = Simpson Co.; Greenwood I. = Jackson Co.; Jackson Marsh = Hancock Co.; Jourdan R. Shores = Hancock Co.; Kiln = Hancock Co.; Lake Arkabutla = DeSoto Co; Lake Lincoln = near Brookhaven, Lincoln Co.; Lakeshore = Hancock Co.; Larue Community = Jackson Co.; Lizana = Harrison Co.; Logtown = Hancock Co.; Lucky's Corner = Hancock Co.; Woolmarket = Harrison Co.

REVIEWS

Sugg, Redding S., Jr. (ed.). The Horn Island Logs of Walter Inglis Anderson. 2nd ed. University Press of Mississippi, Jackson. 240 pp., 40 color plates, numerous black-and-white illustrations. $29.95

Walter Inglis Anderson has become somewhat of a folk hero in recent years - one of those genuine characters that story tellers try to conjure up. But he was real. Some thought he was crazy. And indeed, he had himself committed to a mental institution. But the genius of the man is readily apparent from the writings and art that were discovered after his death in 1965. Anderson was a man who was at peace with nature, if not with the human world around him. This volume includes excerpts from logs that Anderson kept between 1944 and 1950, in 1959, and

in 1965. The transcribed logs are illustrated by some of the paintings and drawings accomplished during the period. The dust jacket of this edition suggests that Anderson was alone and lost in the world of nature. He was neither.

From the logs we know that Anderson was surrounded by animal friends that were closer to him than are most human friends. He treated all living creatures as his equals. And he wasn't lost. He discovered himself through nature. The natural philosophy espoused by Anderson is reminiscent of that of Thoreau and Burroughs.

Anderson was a reclusive artist who was one with nature and the barrier islands off the coast of Mississippi. He recorded nature - in writing and in art - and from what he recorded, we know that he understood nature. He spurned modern conveniences, choosing to row the several miles to Horn Island rather than take advantage of a motor. The Horn Island Logs are the field notes of a naturalist/artist. Much of the acclaim he has received thus far emphasizes the artist. I believe more emphasis should be placed on the naturalist, for not only the logs, but also the art describe nature in a most understanding and exquisite way. Even those plants and animals that Anderson didn't know are described in such detail that most can readily be identified. He knew many of them by name. His descriptions and drawings are so complete, that the reader is immediately assured of identifications. The only identification error I have noted is his "brand new copper head," which both by description and painting (p. 96), seems to have been a young cottonmouth.

Anderson describes a massive die-off of cormorants in March 1959 (p. 106. "I am in a flux of cormorants; they lie dead on both beaches, spread-eagled like some wild heraldic ornament with the army of the sea, wind-driven, following them in to attack the shore..."). He also documents arrival of migrants and nesting of many bird species on Horn Island.

The plates chosen to illustrate "The Horn Island Logs" are but a sample of apparently thousands done. The spirit of the island is captured in each. With a few simple lines and a splash of color, Anderson captured the essence of the birds and animals he saw. His paintings show motion, pattern, and texture. Unlike so many artists who use prepared specimens and photographs, Anderson painted island life where he found it. What he saw lives on.

"The Horn Island Logs of Walter Inglis Anderson" should be enjoyed by any who seek nature. It is a must for those who know and love the barrier islands.--J.A.J.

THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

Mississippi Ornithological Society
Organized 30 April 1955

Officers

President	Bette J. Schardien Jackson Department of Biological Sciences Mississippi State University Mississippi State, MS 39762
Vice-President	L. Hal Moore 1 Lakeside Drive Vicksburg, MS 39180
Secretary	Janet Dubuisson 2 E. 52nd St. Gulfport, MS 39501
Treasurer	G. Edward Alexander 930 S. Washington Greenville, MS 38701
Editor, MOS Newsletter	Judith A. Toups 4 Hartford Place Gulfport, MS 39501
Editor, Mississippi Kite	Jerome A. Jackson Department of Biological Sciences Mississippi State University Mississippi State, MS 39762

MOS Memberships

Honorary	No dues
Life	$100
Sustaining	20 (or more)
Active	10
Corresponding	10
Library Subscriptions	10
Junior (under 17) and Golden Age (over 65)	4

Membership and subscription dues should be sent to the Treasurer. The Mississippi Kite is currently published twice a year and is sent to all classes of membership.