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# THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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Mississippi Ornithological Society  
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**ADDITIONAL NESTING RECORDS OF THE DOUBLE-CRESTED  
CORMORANT IN THE DELTA REGION OF MISSISSIPPI**

Mary P. Stevens  
*Mississippi Museum of Natural Science*  
*4128 Riverside Drive*  
*Jackson, Mississippi 39202*

Jerry L. Litton  
*LightScribe Photography*  
*123 Madison*  
*Brandon, Mississippi 39145*

The only historical nesting record of Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) in Mississippi was documented by Ben B. Coffey, who located twelve nests with young in a tall bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) tree in Tunica County on May 18, 1952 (Coffey 1952). The second and third nesting colonies of Double-crested Cormorants were found in Lewis Swamp in Coahoma County and at Jones Lake in Warren County in 1998 (Reinhold et al. 1998).

We report here the fourth and fifth nesting colonies of Double-crested Cormorants in Mississippi. On 1 May 1999, in the Swan Lake heronry on Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge, Washington County, Jerry Litton found one Double-crested Cormorant standing in a nest in a bald cypress tree. On 23 May 1999, he located a cormorant nest with adults that appeared to be incubating in a bald cypress tree approximately 120 feet tall. Subsequent visits to the site were made on 30 May 1999 and 6 June 1999 by Jerry Litton and Mary Stevens which revealed a total of five nests, two of which had nestlings. Cormorant nests were built on

horizontal limbs 80 to 100 feet above the water. Nests were constructed of bald cypress limbs and twigs with green leaves, and were more round and thicker than the more flattened nests of Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) which were also nesting in the same trees. On 4 July 1999, we observed young cormorants with pinfeathers begging for food and being fed by adults. These individuals had unfeathered whitish throat pouches which are characteristic of young Double-crested Cormorants (Farrand 1983; Johnsgard 1993). On 1 April 2000, Jerry Litton and Mary Stevens found three pairs of Double-crested Cormorants in the Swan Lake heronry beginning to nest in the same group of bald cypress trees that were used the previous year. Adults were sitting in the nests and one was observed carrying nesting material. Two pairs had built nests in one bald cypress tree approximately 120 feet tall. The third nest was in a similar bald cypress nearby. One of the cormorants had nuptial plumage. Great Egrets and Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) were the only nesting associates. On 9 April 2000, we visited the nest site and found nine adult cormorants, eight of which appeared to be paired. All three nests located on our previous visit were attended by two adults each, and at two nests, adults appeared to be incubating. A survey was conducted again on 29 April 2000, and we located five nests in three trees. On 14 May 2000, we observed seven nests in five trees. Two trees had two nests each and the remaining three trees had one nest. On 28 May 2000, we visited the site and three of the seven nests had nestlings. The chicks were covered with thick, black, furry down. Their upper beaks were black and the unfeathered throat pouch was whitish. The three nests had four, three and one young, respectively. Photographs were taken on all visits to the site and included adults standing near or sitting on nests, young

begging for food, adults feeding nestlings, and a nestling with pinfeathers exercising its wings. These photographs have been deposited in the Mississippi Ornithological Society Records Committee File at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science.

The Swan Lake heronry is a large bald cypress-buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) swamp located in the northern section of the Refuge. The lake is an oxbow of the Mississippi River lying five miles from the existing river channel (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1969). Bald cypress trees, ranging in height from 10 to 120 feet, and buttonbushes provide nesting sites for colonial waterbirds. From 1995 to 2000, the Swan Lake heronry was censused annually and averaged 1,664 nesting pairs of eight species of wading birds (Mississippi Colonial Waterbird Census Data, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science).

The sixth nesting colony for Double-crested Cormorant in Mississippi was found on 12 June 2000 by David Linden and W.F. Stevens. The nests were located in a bald cypress-water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*)-buttonbush swamp adjacent to privately owned catfish ponds off White's Lane, west of Hwy 49 W, in Yazoo County. On 16 June 2000, David Linden, Jerry Litton, and Mary Stevens canoed this swamp. There were four cormorant nests, three in bald cypress trees and one in a water tupelo. The cormorants were standing near or sitting on nests. This swamp also contained a large waterbird colony which included approximately 2,500 White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*).

On 1 July 2000, Jerry Litton and Mary Stevens canoed into Jones Lake, the site of the third Mississippi cormorant nesting colony (Reinhold et al. 1998), and found fifteen cormorant nests in bald cypress trees approximately 80 feet tall. Several of the nests had young birds which were in the

branching stage. Photographs were taken of three young showing the black upper beak and yellowish to whitish lower mandible and unfeathered throat. Jones Lake also had large numbers of nesting Anhingas, Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), and Great Egrets.

### Acknowledgments

We thank Manly Washington and Bill Harris who allowed us access to their property, and David Linden and W. F. Stevens who informed us of the White's Lane colony.

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**BIRDS AROUND THE STATE:  
January-December 2001**

Compiled by Gene C. Knight

*79 Hwy 9W  
Oxford, Mississippi 38655*

The following is a summary of noteworthy bird sightings in Mississippi for the period 1 January through 31 December 2000. The sequence of information in each account is: species, number, date, place, observer(s), and significance. Numbers of birds sighted are underlined. The significance of sightings is indicated by letters 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, (RS) = species rare at that season, (U) = species uncommon in area, (US) = species uncommon in that season. Other abbreviations used include the following: ad = adult; BBS = Breeding Bird Survey; Co. = County; Cos. = Counties; f = female/s; Hwy. = Highway; imm = immature/s; juv = juvenile; LOWI = Lake Okatibbee Waterfowl Impoundment; m = male/s; mi = mile/s; m.ob. = many observers; MSU = Mississippi State University; N.S. = National Seashore; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; pl = plumage; pr = pair/s; Pt. = Point; Ref. = Refuge; Rd. = Road; S.L. = Sewage Lagoon; SMWR = State Migratory Waterfowl Refuge; S.P. = State Park; sub ad = sub adult; Subd. = Subdivision; WMA = Wildlife Management Area. The list of sightings is followed by a key to observer's initials and a gazetteer of localities.

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" cards or similar-sized slips of paper with one record per card including the following information: species, number seen, date (including year), location (state, county, and specific location), observer(s), and details and significance of observation. Very unusual records should be accompanied by full details including description of bird, details of observation, and explanation of how similar species were eliminated. 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 North American Birds (formerly known as Audubon Field Notes and American Birds) as well as being considered for use in The Mississippi Kite. Please send all records to:

Terence L. Schiefer  
Mississippi State University  
Department of Entomology  
P.O. Box 9775  
Mississippi State, MS 39762-9775

COMMON LOON -- 1, 26 Oct., Coontown Landing, MD (A); 1, 16 Dec., Bluff Lake, TS, MS (RS)

PIED-BILLED GREBE -- 120+, 11 Jan., Lake Bogue Homa, Jones, SW (N)

EARED GREBE -- 1, 24-26 Feb., North Farm S.L., TS, MS, KK (R); 1, 2 Oct., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (R); 1, 5 Nov., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS

(R); 6, 10 Nov., Canton S.L., GK, SK (R)

WESTERN GREBE -- 1, 1 Dec., Longbranch Landing area, Yalobusha Co., SD, MD (R)

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN -- 10-70 (max. 16 Feb.), 1 Jan.-5 Mar., 1, 11 Apr., Columbus Lake, TS, m.ob. (U); 40, 5 May, 35, 10 May, 15, 12 May, SMWR, MD (U); 10, 29 May, Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (D); 110, 4-8 Jun., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (RS); 110, 11 Jun., Hickory, JM (R); 15, 14 Jun., near Collinsville, LT, KT (US); 43, 13 Jul., Concordia Island, NH, JH (US); 1-110, 23 Oct.-9 Nov., 1, 22 Dec., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS (U); 54, 27 Oct., 1, 31 Oct., 1-11, 25-29 Nov., 12-14, 11-15 Dec., 1, 24 Dec., Loakfoma Lake & Bluff Lake, TS, MC, m.ob. (U)

BROWN PELICAN -- 1, 14 Oct., Sardis Lake, Lafayette Co., MD (Accidental)

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- 50, 3 Sep., Sardis Lake, Lafayette Co., MD (A); 10,000, 10 Nov., Sardis Lake, Lafayette Co., MD (N)

ANHINGA -- 1-4, 10 Apr.-10 Sep., 12, 5 Jun., Bluff Lake & Loakfoma Lake, TS, MS, GS (R/U Nester); 1 m, 13 Apr., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS (R/U)

AMERICAN BITTERN -- 1, 19 Apr., Loakfoma Lake, TS (U); 1, 11-18 Nov., Concordia Island, NH, JH (U)

LEAST BITTERN -- 1, 19 Apr.-24 Aug., Bluff Lake & Loakfoma Lake, TS, MS (R,D)

LITTLE BLUE HERON -- 60, 3 Sep., Hickory S.L., JM (N)

TRICOLORED HERON -- 1 imm, 11 Aug., Coldwater River NWR, GK, SK (U); 1 imm, 24 Aug., Bluff Lake, TS (R)

REDDISH EGRET -- 1 ad, 4 Nov., Moses Pier, Gulfport, SW (U)

CATTLE EGRET -- 27,087, 25 Jul., Bluff Lake, MC, m.ob. (N)

GREEN HERON -- 1, 27 Dec., Texas Flat Rd. Catfish Ponds, Hancock Co., CD, CB (RS)

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON -- 1 ad, 1 sub ad, 5 May, Bluff Lake, TS, MS, JB (RS); 1 ad, 17-20 Sep., Bear Pen Park, Cleveland, NH (R); 1 ad, 7 nestlings in 3 separate nests, 21 Oct., 2 ad, 6 imm, 19 Nov., Yazoo NWR, Washington Co., MSt, JL (U, Late Nesting)

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON -- 2 ad, 8 Jun.-20 Jul., Hickory, JM (U)

WHITE IBIS -- 2 ad, 2 Apr., Loakfoma Lake, TS (A); 15-26 fledged young, 1-30 Aug., Noxubee NWR, TS (2<sup>nd</sup> Nesting Record for Area); 1 imm, 11 Aug., Hickory S.L., JM (U); 1 imm, 13 Dec., Browning Creek and MacToc Farm, Oktibbeha Co., TS (RS)

GLOSSY IBIS -- 4 ad, 18-25 Apr., Doyle Arm, Noxubee NWR, GS, TS, MS (R); 2 ad, 22 Apr., Greenwood Island, Jackson Co., TS, MS (R); 1 ad, 16 May, Bluff Lake, JB (R)

ROSEATE SPOONBILL -- 8-12, 8-10 Aug., St. Catherine Creek NWR, WP, MSt (U); 1 imm, 27 Aug. & 25 Sep., Bluff Lake, TS, MC (R); 1, 17 Oct., Ocean Springs, SW, MoC (R)

WOOD STORK -- 2-74, 18 Jun.-1 Oct., Noxubee NWR, JHu, TS, m.ob. (U); 1, 9 Aug., 5, 30 Aug., 4, 1 Sep., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS (U); 135, 10 & 11 Aug., St. Catherine Creek NWR, MSt, WP (U); 78, 11 Aug., Coldwater River NWR, GK, SK (U); 2, 14 Aug., LOWI, JM (R); 1, 2 Sep., Longbranch Landing, Enid Lake, Yalobusha Co., GK, SK (U); 50, 3 Sep., Rosedale, WPa (U); 250, 29 Sep., Great River Rd. S. P., GK, SK, m.ob. (U)

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- 6, 7 Oct., Lafayette Co., MD (A); 22, 12 Oct., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (A)

SNOW GOOSE -- 1 ad, 14 Oct., 3 ad, 21 Oct., SMWR, MD (E); 1, 15 Dec., near Coastal Plain Branch Experimental Station, Newton Co., JM (U)

ROSS'S GOOSE -- 1 ad, 6 Jan., Columbus Lake (East Bank), Lowndes

Co., KK (R); 1, 30 Dec., near Prichard, KKu, BP, RP (R)

CANADA GOOSE -- 1, 17 Jan., MacToc Farm, TS (Bird with neck collar-banded 28 July, 1999 approx. 56 Km NW of Fort Severn, Ontario); 2 hutchinsii, 17 Jan., MacToc Farm, TS (R)

TUNDRA SWAN -- 1 ad, 6-7 Jan., Prairie Waters Subd., KK, TS, m.ob. (R)

WOOD DUCK -- 1 pr, 21 Feb., Concordia Island, NH, JH (Hen Laying); 235, 15 Sep., Hurricane Landing, Sardis Lake, Lafayette Co., MD (N)

GADWALL -- 10, 22 May, Bluff Lake, TS (D)

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK -- 1, 13 Jan., Lake Mike Conner, Covington Co., DC (U)

REDHEAD -- 1 ad m, 12 Dec., 3 ad m, 14 Dec., Browning Creek Lake, TS (US)

RING-NECKED DUCK -- 1, 17 Aug., Columbus S.L., TS (RS)

GREATER SCAUP -- 1, 13 Jan., Lake Jeff Davis, Jefferson Davis Co., DC (U); 5 m, 2 f, 29 Dec., Rose's Bluff, Ross Barnett Reservoir, Madison Co., RJ (U)

LESSER SCAUP -- 800, 9 Mar., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (N); 200, 9 Mar., Bluff Lake, TS (N)

BLACK SCOTER -- 4 f/imm, 20 Nov., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, SD, PB (R)

LONG-TAILED DUCK -- 1 ad m, 21 Feb., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (R)

COMMON GOLDENEYE -- 1 m, 1 f, 29 Dec., near Fannin, Ross Barnett Reservoir, Rankin Co., CS (U)

HOODED MERGANSER -- 2, 26 Oct., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (A); 12, 28 Oct., SMWR, MD (A); 30, 15 Nov.-15 Dec., Stump Pond near Newton, JM (U)

COMMON MERGANSER -- 2 m & 5 f, 2 Jan., Sardis Dam, GK, SK, MD (R); 2 f, 14 Jan., Enid Lake, Yalobusha Co., GK, SK (R); 1 f, 22 Feb.-11 Mar., Browning Creek Lake, TS, MS, JB (R)

OSPREY -- 1, 25 Mar., near Lawrence, JM, BM (U)

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE -- 1, 20 Mar., near Pascagoula River, Merrill, DC, RS, ML, RL (U,E); 1, 3 May, Vicksburg, MiC, RF, m.ob. (U); 1, 12 May, near Leaf River, Forrest Co., DC, LS, DL (U); 2, 12 May, near Petal, DC, DL (U); 16, 31 Jul., Pascagoula River- from Wade-Vanceleave to George Co. Line, Jackson Co., SW, JMe (U,N); 1, 25 Aug., near entrance of Mahannah WMA, KR (U)

MISSISSIPPI KITE -- 1 ad, 29 Apr., Prysock Field, TS, MS (U); 1 ad, 2 & 16 May, 11 Jun. & 31 Jul., Bluff Lake, TS (U); 1 ad, 5 May, Columbus, DP (U); 2 ad, 12 May, 3 ad, 24 May, Blocker's Bottom, TS, MS (U); 1, 1 Jun., 2, 15 Jun., Nettleton, WPa (U); 2 ad, 2 Aug., Newton Country Club, JM (U); 1 ad, 4 Aug., near Columbus Lake, TS, MS (U); 1, 14 Aug., Starkville, MS (U); 1 imm, 21 Aug., near West Point, TS (U)

BALD EAGLE -- 1 imm, 18 Apr. & 11 May, Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (RS); 2 ad, 18 Apr., 1 ad, 19 Apr., 1 sub ad, 22 May, Noxubee NWR, TS, MS, GS (RS); 1 ad, 27 Apr., Starkville, MC (RS); 1 ad, 25 Jun., Concordia Island, NH, JH (RS); 1 ad, 15 Sep., 1 ad, 14 Oct., 2 ad, 28 Oct., Sardis Lake, Lafayette Co., MD (U)

NORTHERN HARRIER-- 1, 18 Apr., Doyle Arm, Noxubee NWR, TS, MS (D)

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK -- 2 ad, 27 Jul., Moss Point, SW, JMe (RS); 1, 8 Aug., Southern border of DeSoto N.F., Harrison Co., SW (RS)

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK -- 1, 17 Feb., Yazoo NWR, DC, SWH (R)

GOLDEN EAGLE -- 2, 10 Jan., SMWR, VT (R); 1 imm, 24 Feb., Calcutt Bottom, Marshall Co., TH, GK, SK (R); 1 imm, 14 Nov., Noxubee NWR, TS (R)

MERLIN -- 1 ad m, 6 Jan., Tunica Co., GK, SK (RS); 1 m, 8 Mar.,

Browning Creek Subd., TS (R); 1 f/imm, 29 Mar., near Adaton, Self Creek Rd., TS, MS (R); 1, 28 Sep., Great River Rd. S. P., GK, m.ob. (R); 1, 28 Sep., Hickory, JM (R); 1, 15 Dec., SMWR, GK, VT (R); 1 ad m, 20 Dec., Grenada Airport, GK, RB, DW, DK (R)

PEREGRINE FALCON -- 1 ad m, 16 Sep., Coldwater River NWR, Quitman Co., GK (R); 1, 19 Sep., Downtown Oxford, GK (R); 1, 28 Sep., Great River Rd. S. P., GK, SK (R); 1 ad, 5 Oct., near Starkville, SD (R)

KING RAIL -- 1, 31 Mar., Prysock Field, TS, MS (R,A); 2, 18 Apr., 1, 9 May, 1, 26 Jul., 1, 7 Sep., Loakfoma Lake, TS (R); 1, 15 Dec., Prysock Field, TS (RS)

VIRGINIA RAIL -- 1, 20 Dec., Grenada S.L., DK, BR, JS (RS)

SORA -- 1, 15 Sep., LOWI, JM (U); 1, 1-2 May, Loakfoma Lake, TS (U); 1, 20 Dec., Bryant Landing Rd., Grenada Lake, Yalobusha Co., GK (RS); 1, 20 Dec., Grenada S.L., DK, BR, JS (RS); 1, 29 Dec., Pearl River Ref., Madison Co., SP (US)

PURPLE GALLINULE -- 1 ad, 3 downy young, 4 May-10 Aug., Loakfoma Lake, TS, m.ob. (R) 3<sup>rd</sup> Nesting Record for area

COMMON MOORHEN -- 1 ad, 2 downy young, 4 May-6 Aug., Loakfoma Lake, TS (R) 2<sup>nd</sup> Nesting Record for area

AMERICAN COOT -- 1, 1 Apr., Hickory S.L., JM (U)

SANDHILL CRANE -- 32, 6 Jan., Tunica Co., GK, SK (R); 64, 16 Jan., near Shaw, NH, JH, DM (R); 3, 15 Dec., SMWR, GK, VT (R); 18, 30 Dec., near Banks, Tunica Co., CBu, GP, VH (R)

SNOWY PLOVER -- 1, 4 Nov., near Gulfport, SW, MoC (U)

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER -- 1, 25 Jul., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (A); 12, 7 Aug., LOWI, JM (U)

KILLDEER -- 500, 7 Aug., LOWI, JM (N)

BLACK-NECKED STILT -- 1 pr, 6 Aug., near Shaw, NH, JH (U); 100+, 10-11 Aug., St. Catherine Creek NWR, WP, MSt (U); 19, 11 Aug., 4, 16 Sep., Coldwater River NWR, Quitman & Tallahatchie Cos., GK, SK (U)

AMERICAN AVOCET -- 1, 22 Sep., 6, 26 Oct., 2, 26 Oct., Sardis Lake, Lafayette Co., MD (U); 1, 6 Oct., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS (R)

GREATER YELLOWLEGS -- 1, 13 Jan., Big Creek Water Park, Jones Co., DC (US); 2, 19 Jan., Catalpa Creek Bottoms, TS (RS)

LESSER YELLOWLEGS -- 1, 21 May, Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (D); 1, 6 Jul., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (A)

SOLITARY SANDPIPER -- 1, 12 May, North Farm, DP, JP (D)

WILLET -- 1, 31 Aug., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (R)

SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- 12, 14 Aug., LOWI, JM (N); 1, 29 Dec., near Lost Rabbit Pt., Ross Barnett Reservoir, Madison Co., RJ (RS)

UPLAND SANDPIPER -- 1, 8 Aug., 5, 10 Aug., A & D Turf Farm, GK, SK (U); 1, 20 Aug., near Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co., MC (U); 2, 2 Sep., North Farm, TS, MS (U)

MARbled GODWIT -- 9, 23 Apr., Gulfport Harbor, TS, MS (U,N); 2, 29 Aug., LOWI, JM (R)

SANDERLING -- 5, 22 Sep., 3, 14 Oct., Sardis Lake, Lafayette Co., MD (U)

WESTERN SANDPIPER -- 1, 24 May, Blocker's Bottom, TS (RS)

LEAST SANDPIPER -- 5, 13 Jan., Big Creek Water Park, Jones Co., DC (US); 1, 6 Jul., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (A)

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER -- 2, 15 May, Lower Lake, Sardis Dam, MD (A); 1, 25 May, Nettleton, WPa (U)

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER -- 1, 2 Sep., North Farm, TS (U); 3 imm, 6 Sep., A & D Turf Farm, GK, SK (U); 3 imm, 16 Sep., Coldwater River NWR,

Tallahatchie Co., GK (U)

PECTORAL SANDPIPER -- 500, 7 Aug., LOWI, JM (N)

STILT SANDPIPER -- 1, 6 Jul., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (A)

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER -- 2, 8 Aug., 4, 10 Aug., 1, 31 Aug., 1, 1-2 Sep., A & D Turf Farm, GK, SK (U); 2, 6-7 Sep., North Farm, TS (U)

AMERICAN WOODCOCK -- 1+, 28 Jan., Hickory, JM (In Courtship Display); 1 singing, 10 Feb., Knight's Residence, Lafayette Co., GK, SK (Beginning of Courtship Ritual)

WILSON'S PHALAROPE -- 1, 10 Aug., A & D Turf Farm, GK, SK (U); 4, 10-11 Aug., St. Catherine Creek NWR, WP, MSt (U)

RED PHALAROPE -- 1, 1-3 Oct., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, m.ob. (Accidental)

JAEGER SPECIES -- 1 imm dark phase, 2 Sep., Grenada Dam, GK, SK (Accidental)

LAUGHING GULL -- 3 ad, 3 Jan., 2 ad, 19 Jan., 1 ad, 22 Jan., 2 ad, 24 Jan., 1 ad, 9 Feb., 2 ad, 16 Feb., Columbus Lake, Lowndes Co., TS, MS, KK (R); 1 ad, 14 Jan., Grenada Dam, GK, SK (R); 3 ad, 2 Jan., Sardis Dam, GK, SK, m.ob. (R); 2 ad, 14 Jan., Enid Dam, Yalobusha Co., GK, SK (R); 1 ad, 9 Jan., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (R); 1 ad, 20 Jan., Tibbee Creek Bottoms, Clay Co., MS, TS (R); 3 ad, 30 Jan., 3 ad, 1 imm, 31 Jan., Ross Barnett Reservoir Spillway, MS (R); 1 ad, 18 Feb., Sardis Dam, Lower Lake, RP, VR (R); 1 ad, 28 Feb., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (R); 2 ad, 8 Mar., Sardis Dam, Lower Lake, MD (R); 1 ad, 29 May, Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (R); 1 ad, 15 Jun., Nettleton, WPa (R)

FRANKLIN'S GULL -- 16, 26 Oct., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (R); 1 imm, 31 Oct., SMWR, MD (U); 1 ad, 6-8 Dec., Columbus Lake, Lowndes Co., KK, TS, MS, m.ob. (R)

RING-BILLED GULL -- 4 ad, 28 Feb., Hickory, JM (R); 225, 8 Mar., 250, 9 Mar., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (N)



HERRING GULL -- 1 ad, 22 May, Browning Creek Lake, TS (D)

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL -- 1 ad, 1 Jan., Biloxi, GB (R); 1 ad, 5 Jan., Gulfport, DC, SW (R)

SABINE'S GULL -- 1 imm, 31 Aug.-3 Sep., North Farm S.L., TS, m.ob. (Accidental)

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE -- 1 imm, 6-8 Dec., Columbus Lake Lock & Dam, Lowndes Co., KK, TS, m.ob. (R)

CASPIAN TERN -- 3, 7 Aug., LOWI, JM (R); 2, 29 Dec., near Fannin, Ross Barnett Reservoir, Rankin Co., CS (RS)

COMMON TERN -- 9, 24 May, Bluff Lake, TS (R); 9, 1 Sep., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (R)

FORSTER'S TERN -- 1 ad, 9 Jun., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS (D)

LEAST TERN -- 1, 4 May, Cumbest Bridge, Pascagoula River, Jackson Co., DC, CH (U); 1, 24 & 29 May, Bluff Lake, TS (R); 2 ad, 31 May, Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (R); 2 ad, 2 imms, 13-14 May, Concordia Island, NH (R); 2, 24 Jul., Bluff Lake, MC (U); 4, 2 Sep., Longbranch Landing, Enid Lake, Yalobusha Co., GK, SK (U); 4, 3 Sep., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (U)

BLACK TERN -- 29, 22 May, Bluff Lake, TS (U,N); 1, 27 May, Bluff Lake, MC (U); 75, 3 Sep., Hickory, JM (R,N)

BLACK SKIMMER -- 1, 7 Aug., LOWI, JM (R)

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE -- 14 on 10 stops, 3 Jun., Macon BBS, TS, JB (N); 1, 14 Dec., Oktoc Rd., TS (U)

INCA DOVE -- 3, 7-23 Nov., 4 miles East of Arcola, CS, m.ob. (Accidental) 2<sup>nd</sup> State Record

BARN OWL -- 1, 7 Jan., Hickory, JM (U); 1, 30 Nov., Greenville, EA (U)

SHORT-EARED OWL -- 1, 6 Jan., Tunica Co., GK, SK (U); 3, 9 Jan., Black Prairie WMA, DC (U); 1, 3 Feb., Coldwater River NWR, Tallahatchie Co., GK, SK (U)

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW -- 1, 8 Apr., Sturgis, DCr, JT (A)

WHIP-POOR-WILL -- 2, 15 Sep., near Starkville, TS (D)

CHIMNEY SWIFT -- 1, 19 Mar., Browning Creek Lake, TS (A)

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 ad m, 1 imm m, 27 Dec., Bay St. Louis, BS, MaS (R)

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD -- 1, 22 Mar., Hickory, JM (A); 1 ad m, 1 Apr., Concordia Island, NH (A); 1, 13 Oct., Newton, JM (D)

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD -- 1, 27 Jan., Bay St. Louis, JD (R)

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 ad f, 17 Jan., Celeste Neuffer residence, Diamondhead, CN, BS, MaS (R); 1 imm f, 19 Jan., David Dobson residence, Biloxi, DD, BS, MaS (R); 1 ad f, 19 Jan., Gerry Morgan residence, Biloxi, GM, BS, MaS (R); 1 m, 2 f, 27 Dec., Diamondhead, BS, MaS (R)

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 ad f, 17 Jan., Doris Hope residence, Diamondhead, DH, BS, MaS (R)

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 imm m, 3-31 Dec., Margaret Copeland residence, Starkville, MC, TS, m.ob. (R); 2 m, 6 f, 27 Dec., Diamondhead, BS, MaS (R); 1 ad f, 29 Dec., Russ Hackman residence, Madison, MDu, RH, JS (R)

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 m, 27 Dec., Diamondhead, BS, MaS (R)

SELASPHORUS SP. -- 1 ad f, 1 Jan.-17 Feb., Judy Loftin & Bill Henry residences, Starkville, JLo, BH, TS (R); 1 imm/f, 29 Sep., Clower-Thornton Nature Trail, SW, MoC (U)

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE -- 1, 12 Apr., Noxubee NWR, TS (A,E)

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER -- 1, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, TS (A,E)

LEAST FLYCATCHER -- 1, 30-31 Aug., Oxford, GK (U)

EMPIDONAX SP. -- 1, 27 Dec., Texas Flat Rd., Hancock Co., CD, CB (RS)

VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- 1, 27 Dec., Texas Flat Rd., Hancock Co., CD, CB (U)

EASTERN KINGBIRD -- 1, 7 Apr., Concordia Island, NH (A); 1, 24 Sep., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (D)

BLUE-HEADED VIREO -- 1, 15 Sep., North Farm, DP, JP (A); 1, 20 Dec., near North end of Grenada Dam, MD (U)

PHILADELPHIA VIREO -- 1, 9 May, North Farm, TS, MS (D)

RED-EYED VIREO -- 3, 5 Apr., Noxubee NWR, Noxubee & Oktibbeha Cos., TS (A)

PURPLE MARTIN -- 1, 6 Feb., Columbus, KK (A)

TREE SWALLOW -- 8, 28 Mar., Donaldson Pt., NH (A); 1, 28 Apr., 1 pr, 16 May, 7, 11 Jun., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MC, JB (Rare Nester)

BARN SWALLOW -- 1 pr, 6 Apr., near Skene, Bolivar Co., NH (A)

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 1, 6 Oct., Oxford, MD (A); 2, 29 Dec., near Gluckstadt, Madison Co., MSt, WP (U)

BEWICK'S WREN -- 1, 23-25 Dec., North Farm, TS, MS (R)

HOUSE WREN -- 1, 3-4 Dec., Columbus Lake, Lowndes Co., TS (US)

WINTER WREN -- 1, 8 Oct., Noxubee NWR, TS (A)

MARSH WREN -- 1, 20 Dec., Grenada S.L., DK (US)

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 2, 12 & 25 Dec., Between Bluff Lake and Loakfoma Lake, TS, MS (RS); 2, 29 Dec., Fox Bay Subd. Nature Trail, Rankin Co., LP, RPa, SA (RS)

WOOD THRUSH -- 3, 9 Apr., near Starkville, TS (A)

GRAY CATBIRD -- 1, 15 Dec., Prysock Field, TS (RS); 1, 15 Dec., near Oxford, DW (RS)

AMERICAN PIPIT -- 1 race *alticola*, 10 Apr., Browning Creek Lake, TS (R subspecies, L)

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER -- 1, 14 Aug., Noxubee NWR, TS (U,A); 2, 17 Sep., Noxubee NWR, TS (U); 1, 29 Sep., Great River Rd. S.P., TS, MS, m.ob. (U)

TENNESSEE WARBLER -- 1, 9 Apr., Noxubee NWR, Oktibbeha Co., TS (A); 1, 9 May, P.D. Fulgham Rd., TS (D)

NASHVILLE WARBLER -- 1, 16 Apr., Jeff Busby Park, Choctaw Co., MS (U); 1, 28 Apr., Plymouth Bluff, Lowndes Co., TS, MS (U); 1, 30 Sep., Great River Rd. S.P., Bolivar Co., TS, MS (U); 1, 30 Nov., Columbus Lake, Lowndes Co., TS (D,U)

YELLOW WARBLER -- 1, 14 Apr., Brooksville Rd., Noxubee Co., TS, MS (A); 1, 24 May, Blocker's Bottom, TS (D); 2, 21 Jul., Hattiesburg S.L., DC, MiD (E)

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER -- 1, 20 May, P.D. Fulgham Rd., TS (D); 1, 12 Dec., Between Bluff Lake and Loakfoma Lake, TS (RS)

MAGNOLIA WARBLER -- 1, 28 Apr., Plymouth Bluff, Lowndes Co., TS, MS (A); 1, 24 Aug., Noxubee NWR, TS (E)

CAPE MAY WARBLER -- 1, 5 May, Horn Island, DC (R)

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER -- 40+, 1 Apr., Concordia Island, NH, JH (N)

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER -- 1, 16 Oct., North Farm, TS (L)

PALM WARBLER -- 1 m, 21 Apr., Hickory, JM (U)

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER -- 1, 18 Oct., North Farm, TS (D)

CERULEAN WARBLER -- 1 m, 9, 12, 18, & 25 Apr., Noxubee NWR, Oktibbeha Co., TS, MS (U); 1 f, 26 Apr., Jeff Busby Park, Choctaw Co., TS, MS (U); 1 m, 28 Apr., Plymouth Bluff, Lowndes Co., TS, MS (U)

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER -- 1, 15 Oct., Noxubee NWR, TS (D)

AMERICAN REDSTART -- 1, 14 Apr., near Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co., TS, MS (A)

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER -- 1, 4 Apr., Concordia Island, NH, JH (A); 1 pr, 8 Apr., Concordia Island, NH, JH (Nest Building)

SWAINSON'S WARBLER -- 1 heard only, 10 Apr.-26 Jun., Polly Bell Rd., near Starkville, TS (U); 1 heard only, 10-15 Apr., Harrell Rd., near Starkville, TS (U); 1, 12 Apr., Bluff Lake Rd., near Noxubee NWR, TS (U); 1-2 heard only, 14 Apr.-9 Jun., Noxubee River, near Roberts Rd., Noxubee Co., TS, MS (U); 2, 14 Apr., Brooksville Rd., Noxubee Co., TS, MS (U); 1 heard only, 16 Apr.-15 May, North Farm, TS, MS (U); 1 heard only, 27 Apr.-12 May, Pike Rd., Noxubee NWR, Oktibbeha Co., TS, MS (U); 1 heard only, 28 Apr.-5 May, near Plymouth Bluff, Lowndes Co., TS, MS (U); 1, 30 Jul., Bluff Lake, TS (U)

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH -- 1, 12 May, near Starkville, TS, MS (D)

KENTUCKY WARBLER -- 1 heard only, 7 Apr., near Starkville, TS (A)

MOURNING WARBLER -- 1 ad m, 12 May, Strawberry Plains Audubon Center, Marshall Co., JG (R)

WILSON'S WARBLER -- 1, 30 Aug., Noxubee NWR, TS (E)

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT -- 1, 13 Apr., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (A)

SUMMER Tanager -- 1 imm/f, 21-31 Dec., Sam Wilkes residence in Starkville, BW, SWi (RS); 1 imm/f, 29 Dec., Elsie Croft residence in Longview, Oktibbeha Co., EC (RS)

BACHMAN'S SPARROW -- 1, 27 Apr., Dummy Line Rd., Noxubee NWR, Winston Co., TS, MS (U); 1, 29 Apr., Ross Branch Rd., Noxubee NWR, Winston Co., TS, MS (U)

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW -- 1, 7-14 Feb., Columbus Lake, Lowndes Co., TS, m.ob. (R); 1, 12 Oct., North Farm, TS (R)

VESPER SPARROW -- 1, 22 Oct., South Farm, TS (A)

LARK SPARROW -- 1, 5 Apr., North Farm, TS (E); 1, 6 Apr., Columbus Lake (East Bank), Lowndes Co., KK (Rare Nester); 3 pr, 3 Jun., 5, 9 Jun., Macon BBS, TS, MS, JB (Rare Nester); 1, 20 Jul., near Crawford, Lowndes Co., PB (Rare Nester); 6, 21 Jul., Lowndes Co., PB (Rare Nester); 6, 1 Aug., 1, 2 Aug., near Crawford, Lowndes Co., PB, TS (R)

SAVANNAH SPARROW -- 5, 2 Oct., South Farm, TS (A)

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW -- 2, 6 Jan., 6, 18 Jan., Ashe Tree Nursery, Forrest Co., SW (U); 15+, 28 Jan., Ashe Tree Nursery, Forrest Co., DC (U,N); 1, 3 & 9 Jun., near Macon, JB, TS, MS (Rare Nester); 6 singing m, 24 Apr.-11 Jul., NE of West Point, PB (Rare Nester); 2, 16 Aug., 3, 21 Aug., 1, 5 Sep., NE of West Point, TS (R); 2, 8 Nov., Old Fort Bayou Preserve, Jackson Co., SW (U)

HENSLOW'S SPARROW -- 6, 18 Jan., Ashe Tree Nursery, Forrest Co., SW (R); 1, 28 Jan., near Wiggins, DC (R); 1, 10 Feb., near Loakfoma Lake, JB, MC, JP, DP, m.ob. (R); 1, 20 Mar., near Wiggins, DC, JMo, RL (R); 1, 23 Oct., Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR, SW (E)

LECONTE'S SPARROW -- 6, 6 Jan., 7+, 18 Jan., Ashe Tree Nursery, Forrest Co., SW (U); 30+, 28 Jan., Ashe Tree Nursery, Forrest Co., DC (U,N); 3, 3 Feb., Oxford S.L., GK, SK, m.ob. (U); 6, 15 Dec., Prysock Field, TS (U); 6, 15 Dec., near Loakfoma Lake, AS (U); 4, 15 Dec.,

SMWR, GK, VT (U); 1, 20 Dec., Hasserway Overlook below Grenada Dam, Grenada Co., GK (U)

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW -- 3+, 21 Oct., Gulf Park Estates, Ocean Springs, SW (U)

FOX SPARROW -- 1, 22 Jan., Concordia Island, NH (U)

LINCOLN'S SPARROW -- 1, 18 Oct., North Farm, TS (U); 1, 11 Nov., Eupora S.L., TS (U,D); 1, 15 Dec., SMWR, GK (RS)

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- 1 albinistic, 9 Nov.-31 Dec., P.D. Fulgham Rd., TS, MS (Unusual plummage)

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW -- 1, 30 Apr., P.D. Fulgham Rd., TS (D); 1, 7 Nov., Hickory, JM (U)

LAPLAND LONGSPUR -- 4, 5 Jan., Lyman Fish Hatchery, Harrison Co., DC (R); 1, 24-25 Jan., North Farm, TS, DCh (D)

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK -- 1 m, 12 Jan., Browning Creek Subd., TS (RS); 1 ad m, 16 Apr., P.D. Fulgham Rd., MS (E); 1, 12 May, Starkville, TS, MS (D); 1, 12 Sep., South Farm, TS (E,A)

INDIGO BUNTING -- 4, 7 Apr., P.D. Fulgham Rd., TS (A)

PAINTED BUNTING -- 1, 3 Jan., near Dundee, Tunica Co., GBe (RS); 1, 6 Feb., Petal, DC (RS); 10 m, 1 f, 12 May, Hattiesburg S.L., DC (U,N); 1 1<sup>st</sup> year m, 3 & 9 Jun., near Macon, TS, JB, MS (Rare Nester); 1 m, 11 Aug., Coldwater River NWR, Quitman Co., GK, SK (U)

BOBOLINK -- 24-36, 27-30 Apr., Hickory, JM (A)

WESTERN MEADOWLARK -- 1 heard, 12 May, Strawberry Plains Audubon Center, Marshall Co., JG (RS)

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD -- 1 ad m, 28 May, near Moorhead, PS, SJ (R)

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD -- 5 m, 2 f, 30 Dec., near Prichard, Tunica

Co., RP, BP, Kku (U)

ORCHARD ORIOLE -- 1, 2 Apr., P.D. Fulgham Rd., TS (E)

BALTIMORE ORIOLE -- 2, 15 Apr., P.D. Fulgham Rd., TS, MS (E)

PURPLE FINCH -- 1, 7 Nov., Jamen Berk residence on Oktoc Rd., JB (E,A); 1 m, 1 f, 17 Dec., Hickory, JM (A)

HOUSE FINCH -- 1 f, 11 Mar., Hickory, JM (U)

PINE SISKIN -- 1, 8 Jan., Hickory, JM (U); 1, 9 May, Decatur, JM (D)

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -- 500±, 26-29 Jan., Hickory, JM (N); 1 ad m, 28 May-11 Jun., Petal, DC (US); 1, 26 Apr., Hickory, JM (D); 1 pr, 14 Aug., Concordia Island, NH, JH (US)

### Contributors

Ed Alexander, Skipper Anding, Philip Barbour, Gilbert Beaver (GBE), Jamen Berk, Gavin Bieber, Charlie Brenke, Robert Briscoe, Carolyn Bullock (CBu), Mollie Cashner (MoC), Mike Cassmore (MiC), David Chaffin (DCh), David Cimprich, Margaret Copeland, Elsie Croft, David Cross (DCr), Marvin Davis, Michelle Davis (MiD), Charles Delmas, Stephen Dinsmore, David Dobson, Jan Dubuisson, Maurice Duvic (MDu), Rick Fischert, Jessie Grantham, Russ Hackman, Van Harris, Bill Henry, JC Herbert, Nona Herbert, Tom Hoar, Doris Hope, Joe Mac Hudspeth (JHu), Chuck Hunter, Seymour Johnson, Robert Jones, Keith Kimmerle, Dave King, Keith Kunkel (Kku), Gene Knight, Shannon Knight, Dianne Lafferty, Jerry Litton, Judy Loftin (JLo), Marg Ludkin, Rick Ludkin, Beth McGee, Joe McGee, Jay Mengel (JMe), Jeff Molenhauer (JMo), Duke Morgan, Gerry



Morgan, Celeste Neuffer, Louise Partridge, Reese Partridge (RPa), Dianne Patterson, Jim Patterson, Wayne Patterson (WPa), George Payne, Bill Peeples, Rob Peeples, Steve Peterson, Wilma Pickett, Bruce Reid, Ken Reinecke, Virginia Reynolds, Roland Sandberg, Bob Sargent, Martha Sargent (MaS), Marion Schiefer, Terence Schiefer, Gloria Schoenholtz, Judy Shearer, Carl Smith, Larry Smith, Paul Smith, Mary Stephens (MSt), Allen Stickle, Juliet Tang, Karen Thead, Lauren Thead, Vic Theobald, Dennis Welch, Sandy Whisler (SWh), Becky Wilkes, Sam Wilkes (SWi), Stephan Woltman.

### Key to Localities

Localities not listed are indexed on the "Official Highway Map of Mississippi" or the county is listed in the text.

A & D Turf Farm = Lafayette Co.; near Adaton/P.D.  
 Fulgham Rd. = Oktibbeha Co.; Ansley = Hancock Co.;  
 Blocker's Bottom = Oktibbeha Co.; Bluff Lake = Noxubee  
 NWR, Noxubee Co.; Browning Creek Lake/ Subd. =  
 Oktibbeha Co.; Catalpa Creek Bottoms = Lowndes Co.;  
 Clower-Thornton Nature Trail = Harrison Co.; Columbus  
 Lake = Lowndes & Clay Cos.; Coontown Landing = Sardis  
 Lake, Lafayette Co.; Gunnison, Donaldson Pt., or Concordia  
 Island = Bolivar Co.; Kangaroo Pt. Sandbar on the  
 Mississippi River = Coahoma Co.; Lake Okatibbee  
 Waterfowl Impoundment = Lauderdale Co.; Loakfoma Lake  
 = Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co.; MacToc Farm = Oktoc Rd.  
 South of Starkville, Oktibbeha Co.; Mississippi Sandhill  
 Crane NWR = Jackson Co.; MSU campus/North Farm =  
 Oktibbeha Co.; Noxubee NWR = Noxubee Co.; Prairie

Waters Subd. = Lowndes Co.; Prysock Field = Noxubee  
NWR, Winston Co.; Sardis Dam/Lower Lake = Panola Co.;  
Seaman Rd. S.L. = Jackson Co.; Saint Catherine Creek NWR  
= Adams Co.; State Migratory Waterfowl Refuge =  
Lafayette Co.; Torrance Landing = Grenada Lake,  
Yalobusha Co.; Waveland S.L. = Hancock Co.

# THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

Application for membership in the Mississippi Ornithological Society may be made to the treasurer. The Mississippi Kite is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Send change of address, requests for back issues, and claims for undelivered or defective copies to the treasurer.

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*The Mississippi Kite* publishes original articles that advance the study of birdlife in the state of Mississippi. Submission of articles describing species occurrence and distribution, descriptions of behaviors, notes on the identification of Mississippi birds, as well as scientific studies from all fields of ornithology are encouraged. All manuscripts, in both a hard copy and digital copy format, should be submitted to the editor.

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**NOMENCLATURE** - Common names of bird species should be capitalized. Provide the scientific name (*italicized*) at the first mention of each species. Nomenclature should follow the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, 7th edition (1998) and the 42nd (2000) and 43rd (2002) supplements.

**TABLES** – Tables should be formatted with the size of *The Mississippi Kite* in mind and should be interpretable without reference to the text.

**FIGURES** – Figures should be appropriate for photoreproduction without retouching.

# THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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COVER IMAGE: Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)  
pen and ink drawing by David A. Cimprich.