

# THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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# THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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

# THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

*The Mississippi Kite* is a biannual periodical published by the Mississippi Ornithological Society to record and further the study of Mississippi birdlife.

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COVER IMAGE: Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*), 12 November 2017, Biloxi, Mississippi, by Holly Cox.

**FIRST ACCEPTED MISSISSIPPI RECORD OF SMOOTH-BILLED ANI**

Holly Cox  
183 Keesler Circle  
Biloxi, MS 39530

During a birding trip on 4 November 2017, I noticed an ani around 0850 perched on a bush overhanging the canal at Hiller Park in Biloxi. The bird had a noticeable notch on the right side of its lower mandible (Figure 1). After viewing the ani for several minutes, and taking photos and video, I saw the bird fly from bushes and trees along the canal and heard it give a distinctive flight call. I immediately compared what I heard with both Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) and Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) recordings on my phone, and it best matched a Smooth-billed Ani flight call. I was not able to get an audio recording that day. Despite the vocalizations I heard and the differences between the bill of the bird and the bill of a Groove-billed Ani I observed a few weeks earlier (smoother, size, shape), I dismissed the Smooth-billed Ani identification due to the far-reaching possibility of one being in Mississippi. I knew there had never been a confirmed sighting of a Smooth-billed Ani in Mississippi. Therefore, I assumed it was likely another Groove-billed Ani since they were being reported along the Gulf Coast in Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi.

Upon posting photos with my eBird checklist, the identification was immediately called into question. The photos and video were reviewed by an eBird Project Leader and members of the Mississippi Bird Records Committee (MBRC) who agreed that, based on the arched culmen and smooth bill, it was likely a Smooth-billed Ani. Questions arose regarding the bird's vocalizations. On 7 November, I returned to the park, and waited near the boat launch at a spot where the ani had been seen the



**Figure 1.** Smooth-billed Ani on 12 November 2017 at Hiller Park, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi.

previous morning by another birder. Shortly after arriving, the ani flew into the overgrown marsh next to the boat launch and began making perch calls. It made three flights in and out of this area during the visit. I was able to obtain both perch call (<https://www.xeno-canto.org/429066>) and flight call (<https://www.xeno-canto.org/429065>) audio recordings of the Smooth-billed Ani during this visit using the RØDE Rec app on my phone. Photographs, video and audio recordings, and a sighting report were submitted to the MBRC. The record (MBRC record number 017-29) was accepted by the MBRC in March 2018. Many birders from throughout Mississippi, as well as at least Louisiana, Texas, and Florida, were able to see the Smooth-billed Ani through 15 November 2017.

## **GROUND-NESTING OSPREYS ON A MISSISSIPPI BARRIER ISLAND**

Peter J. Blank and Elise Diehl  
Coastwise Consulting, Inc.  
173 Virginia Ave.  
Athens, GA 30601

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) is a fish-eating raptor that usually nests in open areas near water, and is found year-round along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Common nest locations include snags and treetops, but Ospreys have adapted to nesting on man-made structures such as channel markers, utility poles, and artificial nesting platforms. They will occasionally nest on the ground, particularly on islands, when above-ground nesting sites are limited or in the absence of mammalian predators (Bierregaard et al. 2014, Bierregaard et al. 2016). Ground nests have been reported on Gardiners Island, New York, Great Island, Connecticut, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and islands in the Ojo de Liebre Lagoon in Baja California Sur, Mexico (Spitzer and Poole 1980, Casellanos and Ortega-Rubio 1995, Bierregaard et al. 2014). Osprey ground nests may be vulnerable to high tides, storms, and land predators (Casellanos and Ortega-Rubio 1995).

### **OSPREY NESTING ON EAST SHIP ISLAND**

We conducted bird monitoring during 2017-2018 on East Ship Island as a requirement of the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program (MsCIP), Comprehensive Barrier Island Restoration (USACE 2014). Monitoring occurred daily from early August until the end of September 2017, weekly from October-February, and daily again starting 1 March 2018.

The first Osprey observation during 2018 was on 1 March. On 7 March, we observed 10 Ospreys on the island, several of which were resting on the ground, possibly tired due to recently arriving after migrating. By early-April, we identified at least five Osprey pairs on the island.

We observed six Osprey nests on East Ship Island in the spring of 2018. Not all of these nests were concurrently active, and at least one may have been a re-nesting attempt. Four nests were in snags located toward the middle of the island, at least one of which was abandoned by mid-April. We found two other Osprey nests directly on the sand beach on the south (Gulf of Mexico) side of the island. Among the six nests, the average distance to the nearest nest was approximately 190 m. There was also an active Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest close to several of the Osprey nests in snags. The first Bald Eagle nestling was observed on 24 January and the nest fledged two young by the end of March. Antagonistic behavior was commonly observed between the adult Bald Eagles and the neighboring adult Ospreys. Including the Bald Eagle nest, the average distance from an Osprey nest to the nearest raptor nest was roughly 170 m.

We found the first Osprey ground nest on 10 April and it was well-defined (Figure 1). The outer part of the nest was composed of sticks, small pieces of logs and bark, and large grasses. The inner nest was lined with finer material such as smaller grasses and twigs. On 13 April, we observed one egg in the nest being incubated by an adult (Figure 2). We observed a second egg in the nest on 1 May and two nestlings on 19 June. Both juvenile Ospreys fledged the ground nest on 15 July.

We found the second Osprey ground nest on 1 May with three eggs. The nest was poorly defined, consisting of a few sticks, debris, and a large rope, on a raised area of sand (Figure 3). The eggs were resting directly on the sand, and were being incubated by an adult Osprey (Figure 4). We did not observe an adult Osprey



**Figure 1.** Well-defined Osprey nest on the ground on East Ship Island, Mississippi, 10 April 2018. Photo by Peter Blank.



**Figure 2.** Osprey adult incubating on the well-defined ground nest on East Ship Island, Mississippi, 2018. Photo by Elise Diehl.





**Figure 3.** Poorly-defined Osprey nest on the ground, with three eggs resting on the sand, on East Ship Island, Mississippi, 1 May 2018. Photo by Elise Diehl.



**Figure 4.** Osprey adult incubating on the poorly-defined ground nest on East Ship Island, Mississippi, 2018. Photo by Elise Diehl.

bringing nest material to this site; most of the material on the ground looked to have been deposited by waves. On 22 May, we found the nest depredated; one egg was missing and the other two eggs were cracked open. We were unable to determine if the eggs were preyed upon before or after hatching. We suspect ghost crabs (*Ocypode quadrata*) depredated the nest, as there were several crab tracks in the vicinity.

## DISCUSSION

To our knowledge, these are the first Osprey ground nests documented in Mississippi. We are uncertain why Osprey eggs were deposited and incubated at the poorly-defined nest found on 1 May. One possibility is that this was an impromptu re-nesting attempt after an Osprey pair was forced to abandon one of the nests in snags.

As a result of the MsCIP, East Ship Island is currently being expanded in size and will eventually be reconnected to West Ship Island (USACE 2014). However, during this study East Ship Island was relatively small (about 103 ha). Additionally, only about 12 ha contained snags large enough to support an Osprey nest; none of the short live trees appeared large enough to support a nest. Ospreys defend nest sites, not feeding territories, and usually defend only 50-100 m from the nest (Bierregaard et al. 2016). The average distance between nearest nests (including Osprey and Bald Eagle nests) was 170 m. We suggest that the small area of the island, the limited number of live trees or snags capable of supporting nests, and the proximity to existing nests contributed to the ground-nesting behavior. Nest sites in snags were initiated before the two Osprey nests on the ground. This suggests that nest-site availability on the island was limited and may have contributed to the ground-nesting behavior.

Another possible reason for the ground-nesting behavior by Ospreys on East Ship Island may have been a lack of ground-based predators. No mammalian predators were observed on the island during this study. As noted earlier, ghost crabs may have been a predator of ground-nesting Ospreys on the island. Poorly-defined nests may allow the crabs easier access to the eggs or young. We suggest that nest size and structure may influence the vulnerability of Osprey ground nests to ground-based predators.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Bird monitoring on East Ship Island was conducted by Coastwise Consulting, Inc. (CCI) as a requirement of the MsCIP, Comprehensive Barrier Island Restoration. At CCI, we thank Chris Slay, Gib Frye, and beach monitors Lisa Rodriguez, Kate Pagan, and Jessica Thompson. We also thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, the U.S. National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company for their unwavering cooperation and support of this work.

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## ABERRANT SONG OF A FIELD SPARROW

J.R. Rigby<sup>1</sup> and Gene C. Knight<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 305 Garner St.

Oxford, MS 38655

<sup>2</sup> 79 Hwy. 9 W.

Oxford, MS 38655

On 16 March 2016, Gene and Shannon Knight observed a Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) of typical plumage (Figure 1) in Lafayette County singing a buzzy song suggestive of Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). The site where the bird was found lies south of Oxford along CR 337 approximately 300 m south of its terminus with CR 328 near an electrical substation. The sparrow was found on multiple visits through at least 1 May.

On 18 March, Rigby recorded audio of the song (<https://www.xeno-canto.org/313158>) for inclusion in the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Bioacoustics Collection and video of the bird singing (<https://flic.kr/p/Fr9wqB>). The song consisted of an initial descending slur, like that of Field Sparrow, followed by a set of five-six buzzy phrases, occasionally completed by the terminal trill from the typical "bouncing ball" song of a Field Sparrow (Figure 2). In the recordings, all songs included the initial descending slur and buzzy phrases, while approximately two-thirds of the songs included the terminal trill. Despite the aberrant song, nothing of the bird's appearance was atypical or suggested hybridization with Clay-colored Sparrow. While the buzzy nature of the song is suggestive of Clay-colored Sparrow, the pattern of notes (slur, buzz, trill), cadence (one long followed by several short buzzes), and pitch (lower than Clay-colored Sparrow) make the source of the aberrant song speculative.

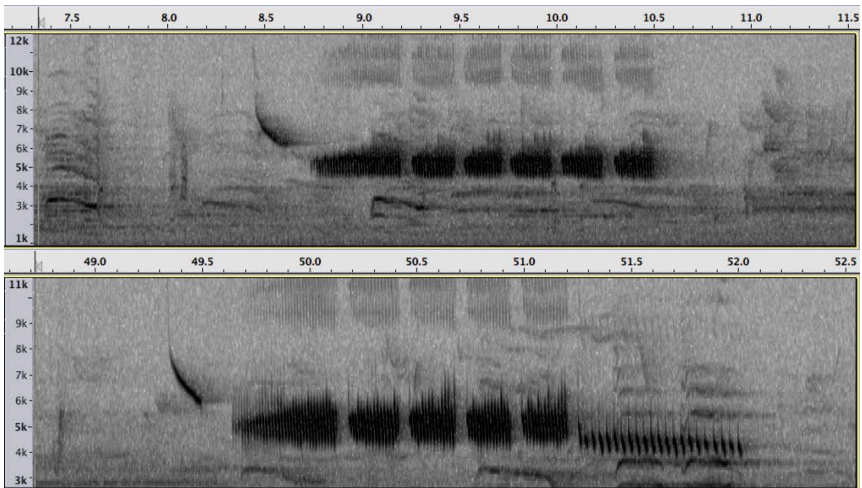
Like most songbirds, Field Sparrows learn their song from other individuals (Nelson 1992, Liu and Kroodsma 1999). Liu and



**Figure 1.** Field Sparrow singing a buzzy song type reminiscent of Clay-colored Sparrow, Lafayette County, Mississippi, 18 March 2016.

Kroodsma (1999) found that Field Sparrows learn song elements during their hatch year from tutors, and then selectively retain song elements to best match neighboring peers the following spring. Since the soundscape for young birds is filled with many songs, the learning phase presents opportunities for “mistakes” such as learning elements of the song of another species. Many cases of apparent mimicry in songbirds might be attributed to such mistakes during the sensitive learning period.

While rare, there are precedents for Field Sparrows learning the songs of other species. Short (1966) observed an after hatch year Field Sparrow singing the song of a Chipping Sparrow



**Figure 2.** Spectrograms of the two aberrant Field Sparrow song types encountered in Lafayette County, Mississippi, 18 March 2016.

(*Spizella passerina*) in Nebraska. During their study on caged birds, Liu and Kroodsma (1999) found that “one juvenile field sparrow acquired part of his song from another species, the sedge wren, *Cistothorus platensis*. During the hatching year, this juvenile was isolated from adult sparrows and kept in a holding room with other juvenile sparrows and with marsh wrens, *C. palustris*, and sedge wrens. The following spring, adult sparrows were added to the room. This juvenile’s song seemed highly abnormal to us, with the ending notes of the song apparently learned from one of the sedge wrens.”

The song of the Lafayette County bird was not encountered on return trips to the location later in the summer nor in spring 2017. Possible explanations include predation or that the bird was merely a transient migrant that continued northward. The latter possibility would add credence to the possibility of Clay-colored Sparrow being involved in the song-learning period. While it is

possible that the bird was predated or moved elsewhere, the work of Liu and Kroodsma (1999) also suggests that it is possible this was a young sparrow that later adapted its song to neighboring Field Sparrows and dropped the buzzy phrases.

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**CLIFF SWALLOW FOREHEAD COLOR  
AT MISSISSIPPI NESTING COLONIES**

Holly Cox,<sup>1</sup> Donna L. Dittmann,<sup>2</sup> and Nicholas A. Winstead<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 183 Keesler Circle  
Biloxi, MS 39530

<sup>2</sup> Museum of Natural Science  
119 Foster Hall  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

<sup>3</sup> Mississippi Museum of Natural Science  
2148 Riverside Dr.  
Jackson, MS 39202

The Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) has expanded its range dramatically in the southeastern U.S. (Brown et al. 2017). Prior to 1975, Cliff Swallows were known to nest in Mississippi only in Tishomingo County (Turcotte 1975), but subsequently expanded the breeding range across the northern two-thirds of the state (Phares 1975, Turcotte 1975, Weber 1979, Jackson 1980). The first nesting colony from southern Mississippi was discovered in 1986 under the Hwy. 90 bridge over the East Pearl River (Spence and Toups 1986).

Cliff Swallow forehead color can range from pale whitish to dark rufous depending on subspecies (Brown et al. 2017). Generally, northern and eastern birds (*P. p. pyrrhonota* and *P. p. ganieri*) have white to beige foreheads (Brown et al. 2017). By range, Cliff Swallows nesting in Mississippi would be expected to be subspecies *P. p. ganieri*, split from *P. p. pyrrhonota* by A.R. Phillips (1986) on the basis of smaller wing chord and slightly darker buffy to buffy whitish forehead, and breeding west of the Appalachians (probably from west-central Tennessee), southern Oklahoma to central Texas (type locality, Kerr County, Texas),

then south to south Texas. Nominate Cliff Swallows would also be expected to occur in Mississippi during migration (Dickinson and Christidis 2014). Southwestern birds (*P. p. tachina* and *P. p. melanogaster*) are smaller with darker buffy to rufous foreheads (Brown et al. 2017). Forehead coloration of *P. p. tachina* can overlap with darker *P. p. ganieri*; rufous coloration of *P. p. melanogaster* is similar to and inviting confusion with Cave Swallow (*P. fulva*), a species anticipated to colonize Mississippi in the near future. Forehead color was mentioned in only one account of Cliff Swallows nesting in Mississippi (Turcotte 1975), and was reported as “light.” The only specimen from a Mississippi nesting colony (MMNS 5665, Figure 1) has a light beige forehead.

On 29 May 2017, Cox observed a small group of Cliff Swallows at Biloxi, Mississippi; they were along the edge of a water puddle, gathering mud for nest-building (Figure 2), performing courtship displays, and copulating (Figure 3). Some had pale to intermediate foreheads, but most had dark rufous foreheads resembling the southwestern subspecies, *P. p. melanogaster*. Copulations were not restricted to individuals of similar forehead color (Figure 3). After trying to find information on forehead color of Cliff Swallows nesting in Mississippi, we learned that nesting Cliff Swallows with dark rufous foreheads were reported by at least 2010 in Hancock County (Sibley 2011, Susan Epps personal communication). Individuals at these and other southern Mississippi colonies can range in forehead color from pale beige to dark rufous (Sibley 2011). A series of specimens (LSU Museum of Natural Science) from nearby southern Pearl River, Louisiana (on the border with Mississippi) where colonies have been present since at least spring of 1981 (Purrington 1988), shows a similar range of forehead colors to those reported from Biloxi (Figure 4). Nesting colonies with individuals with dark foreheads have also been reported in southern Alabama and Florida (Summerour 1989, Sibley 2011).



**Figure 1.** Cliff Swallow specimen MMNS 5665 collected 25 June 1999 at a nesting colony under the Hwy. 25 bridge over Hwy. 43 near Sand Hill, Rankin County, Mississippi.

Subspecific identification of individuals with dark rufous to chestnut-colored foreheads at these mixed colonies has not been determined. The subspecies *P. p. melanogaster* breeds from southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico south over



**Figure 2.** Cliff Swallows gathering mud for nest-building on 29 May 2017 at Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi.

the Mexican Plateau (Brown et al. 2017), has the darkest forehead color (deep cinnamon-rufous to dark chestnut), and is similar to some Mississippi birds. However, it seems unlikely that Mississippi breeders would be this Southwestern subspecies based on range. Possible explanations for forehead color variations (ranging from beige to dark chestnut) within colonies could include (1) introgression from expanding *P. p. melanogaster* and/or *P. p. tachina* populations, (2) previously overlooked individual variation, or (3) potential hybridization with Barn (*Hirundo rustica*) or Cave swallows. To distinguish between these hypotheses, further investigation and additional genetic sampling is needed (Dittmann and Cardiff 2002).

Within Mississippi, colonies with mixed forehead colors have been documented along the Gulf Coast in Hancock and



**Figure 3.** Cliff Swallows copulating at a mud hole, 29 May 2017 at Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi. Males with dark forehead patches (A) and light forehead patches (B) were copulating with individuals with different colored forehead patches.



**Figure 4.** Pearl River Cliff Swallows. LSUMNS specimens collected 22 May 1995 (seven on right, West Pearl River) and 28 June 1998 (leftmost, Middle Pearl River) show range of forehead coloration from darkest (left) to lightest (right) of a random collection at breeding colonies on the Pearl River Hwy. 90 bridges, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.

Harrison counties and at one inland colony near Ross Barnett Reservoir (Sibley 2011). Sibley's blog post (Sibley 2011) mapped relative distribution of forehead color, as well as requests information to update distribution of forehead color. Surveying the forehead colors of Mississippi's Cliff Swallow colonies is important to document current distribution and potential future changes in forehead color frequency to better understand the relative abundance and distribution of individuals with dark foreheads.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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**MISSISSIPPI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT-2017**

Gene C. Knight  
79 Hwy. 9 W.  
Oxford, MS 38655

The Mississippi Bird Records Committee (MBRC) of the Mississippi Ornithological Society was created to produce and keep a field checklist of the bird species that occur in Mississippi. The MBRC requests and reviews documentation on any record of a MBRC Review List species which can be found at the end of this report or at the MOS website, [www.missbird.org](http://www.missbird.org). This is the 11<sup>th</sup> report of the MBRC, and it covers Committee activities for 2017. Gene Knight is the Committee Chair and Philip Barbour, Ned Boyajian, Jason Hoeksema, and Nick Winstead served as MBRC Members.

The MBRC reached a final decision on 27 records in 2017. Twenty-three records of 17 species were accepted. Two records were sent to the 2<sup>nd</sup> circulation process. Twenty-seven observers submitted documentation to the MBRC on these records that were reviewed by the Committee in 2017.

The information presented after each species is as follows (if known): species name, number of individuals, age and/or sex, date(s) of occurrence, location, county (in italics), and initials of the observer(s). When known, the initials of those who discovered the bird are in boldface but only if the discoverer(s) submitted supporting documentation. After each observer's initials, the type of documentation is given in parentheses. They are as follows: p = photograph; r = recording; rc = record card (includes only pertinent facts about the record); w = written documentation (includes full details about the record with complete description). The MBRC record number and Class of the record are given in brackets.

Accepted records fall into three classes. Class 1 records are documented by an accepted specimen, diagnostic photograph, or recording; Class 2 records are documented by accepted written documentation by two or more independent observers; Class 3 records are documented by accepted written documentation by a single observer. Where multiple observers are listed as having submitted written documentation for Class 3 records, only documentation from one of the observers was deemed acceptable by the Committee. Similarly, where photographs are listed as having been submitted for Class 2 or 3 records, the photograph was not considered diagnostic by the Committee, although the written documentation was acceptable.

Other abbreviations used in this report are as follows: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, SL = Sewage Lagoon, and WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

#### ACCEPTED RECORDS, 1<sup>ST</sup> CIRCULATION

**Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*) 1 adult on 11 August 2016 east of Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, *Harrison*, **HC**(w,p) [016-18; Class 1P]

**Audubon's Shearwater** (*Puffinus lherminieri*) 1 carcass found on 3 August 2016 on Deer Island, Biloxi, *Harrison*, **MF**(w), **LD**(p) [016-17; Class 1P]

**Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster*) 1 adult female on 2-16 October 2016 at Lake Chewalla, *Marshall*, **WE**(w,p), **HM**(w,p), **JR**(w), **JH**(w), **GK**(rc) [016-20; Class 1P]

**Golden Eagle** (*Aquila chrysaetos*) 1 on 2-4 December 2015 at Noxubee NWR, *Noxubee*, **TS**(w) [016-1; Class 3]

**Say's Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*) 1 on 27-29 December 2015 near Cruger, *Leflore*, **HM**(w,p), **PB**(w,rc) [016-3; Class 1P]; 1 on 13-14 February and 4 March 2016 near Okolona, *Chickasaw*, **WP**(w,p), **GK**(rc) [016-7; Class 1P]; 1 on 4-6 October 2016 on West Ship Island, *Harrison*, **WM**(w,p), **GK**(rc) [016-21; Class 1P]

**Tropical Kingbird** (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) 1 on 31 December 2015-28 February 2016 at Bay St. Louis, *Hancock*, **HW**(w,p,r), **NB**(w), **JR**(w,r), m.ob. [016-4; Class 1R]

**Couch's Kingbird** (*Tyrannus couchii*) 1 on 13 January-20 April 2016 on Singing River Island, *Jackson*, **BJ**(w,p), **JR**(w,p,r), **NB**(w), **HC**(w), **GK**(rc) [016-5; Class 1R]; 1 on 30 November 2016-3 January 2017 near Money, *Leflore*, **JR**(w,p,r), **JH**(w), **GK**(rc) [016-23; Class 1R]

**Gray Kingbird** (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) 2 on 23-24 April 2016 on West Ship Island, *Harrison*, **AB**(w,p), **GO**(w), **NB**(w) [016-12; Class 1P]

**Bell's Vireo** (*Vireo bellii*) 1 on 2 October 2016 at Old River WMA, *Pearl River*, **NB**(w) [016-19; Class 3]

**Bewick's Wren** (*Thryomanes bewickii*) 1 on 20 February 2016 at Sardis Waterfowl WMA, *Lafayette*, **JR**(w,p,r) [016-8; Class 1P]

**American Tree Sparrow** (*Spizelloides arborea*) 1 on 3 December 2015 near Coldwater River, *Marshall*, **RH**(w) [016-2; Class 3]

**Harris's Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia querula*) 1 on 16-19 January 2016 at Pascagoula River Audubon Center, *Jackson*, **GC**(p), **GM**(w), **SM**(p) [016-6; Class 1P]

**Shiny Cowbird** (*Molothrus bonariensis*) 1 pair on 1 May 2016 at Singing River Island, *Jackson*, **BJ**(w,p) [016-13; Class 1P]

**Mourning Warbler** (*Geothlypis philadelphia*) 1 adult male on 4 May 2016 at Section Line Road, *Lowndes*, **PM**(w), **TS**(rc) [016-14; Class 3]; 1 adult male on 16 May 2016 at the Plymouth Bluff Environmental Center, *Lowndes*, **JO**(w), **TS**(rc) [016-15; Class 3]

**Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*) 1 adult male on 2 November 2016 at Pascagoula River Audubon Center, *Jackson*, **PBI**(w,p) [016-22; Class 1P]

**Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) 1 female on 1 March 2016 at Picayune, *Pearl River*, **RP**(w,p) [016-9; Class 1P]

Records sent to 2<sup>nd</sup> Circulation from their 1<sup>st</sup> Circulation round have been voted on once and have received at least one “not accept” vote but not a unanimous “not accept” vote.

## RECORDS SENT TO 2<sup>ND</sup> CIRCULATION

**Arctic Loon** (*Gavia arctica*) 1 on 6 March 2016 at Bay Springs Lake, *Tishomingo* [016-10]

**Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster*) 1 expired bird picked up on a barge on 8 Mar 2016, Gulfport, *Harrison* [016-11]

## ACCEPTED RECORDS, 2<sup>ND</sup> CIRCULATION

**Bridled Tern** (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) 1 specimen on 31 August 2012 at Graveline Beach, *Jackson*, GK(w), NW(p) [012-22; Class 1S]

Records sent to 3<sup>rd</sup> Circulation are records that have gone through two circulations of voting procedure by the MBRC without being accepted or not accepted. These records were presented to the Members at the Annual Meeting with a quorum of Members present. The voting procedure followed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circulation voting criteria; that is, a record is accepted if it receives no more than one not accept vote and is not accepted if it receives more than one not accept vote.

## ACCEPTED RECORDS, 3<sup>RD</sup> CIRCULATION

**Bell's Vireo** (*Vireo bellii*) 1 seen and heard on 12 September 2015 at St. Catherine Creek NWR, *Adams*, LG(w), HC(w,p,r) [015-15; Class 1-R]

**Bewick's Wren** (*Thryomanes bewickii*) 1 on 13 May 2014 at Oxford, *Lafayette*, JH(w) [014-13; Class 3]

Not Accepted Records (Class 4) are either records not accepted based on questionable identification (Class 4-I) or records where identification is accepted but the origin is questionable (Class 4-O). Rarely is a record not accepted due to the bird being misidentified. Non-acceptance is usually due to poorly written documentation. Most of these reports are vague and incomplete, leaving out pertinent details and not properly eliminating similar species. These records may be valid, but the Committee has

decided that the documentation submitted does not meet the standards required for inclusion in the historical database.

## NOT ACCEPTED RECORDS

**Slaty-backed Gull** (*Larus schistisagus*) 1 1<sup>st</sup> cycle bird on 13-20 February 1993 at Sullivan Road Catfish Complex, *Tunica* [93-24; Class 4-I]

**Golden Eagle** (*Aquila chrysaetos*) 1 on 27 July 2016 off Hwy. 67, Biloxi, *Harrison* [016-16; Class 4-I]

**Crested Caracara** (*Caracara cheriway*) 1 on 11 December 2014 at Seaman Road SL, *Jackson* [015-2; Class 4-I]

**Tropical Parula** (*Setophaga pitiayumi*) 1 male on 13 Sep. 1990 at Logtown, *Hancock* [90-29; Class 4-I]

## CONTRIBUTORS

Philip Barbour, Andy Bell, Peter Blank (PBI), Ned Boyajian, Gary Chapin, Holly Cox, Lauren Deets, Will Eubanks, Molly Folkerts, Libby Graves, Rob Harbin, Jason Hoeksema, Brian Johnston, Gene Knight, Paul Mack, Warren Martz, Sharon Milligan, Hal Mitchell, Gerry Morgan, Jimmy Osborne, Glenn Ousset, Wayne Patterson, Rhonda Plitt, JR Rigby, Terence Schiefer, Harold Weber, and Nick Winstead.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The MBRC would like to thank the contributors listed above for their time in furnishing written and photographic

documentation for review. I would like to thank Committee Members for providing the MBRC with their expert opinion concerning records reviewed during 2017.

## **REVIEW SPECIES LIST**

The following species were removed from this list in December 2004, but records prior to 2005 will still be reviewed by the Committee: Tundra Swan, Common Merganser, Calliope Hummingbird, Glossy Ibis, White-faced Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Red Crossbill, Western Meadowlark, and Bronzed Cowbird. These species were removed from this list in February 2009, but records prior to 2009 will still be reviewed by the Committee: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Neotropic Cormorant. Red-necked Phalarope was the only species removed from this list in February 2010, but records prior to 2010 will still be reviewed by the Committee. These species were removed from this list in February 2011, but records prior to 2011 will still be reviewed by the Committee: Inca Dove, Yellow Rail, and Cave Swallow. These species were removed from this list in February 2012, but records prior to 2012 will still be reviewed by the Committee: Sooty Tern and Pacific Loon. These species were removed from this list in January 2013, but records prior to 2013 will still be reviewed by the Committee: Alder Flycatcher and Willow Flycatcher. No species were removed from this list during 2014-2016. These species were removed from this list in 2017: Thayer's Gull, Slaty-backed Gull, and Tropical Parula. Thayer's Gull is now considered a subspecies of Iceland Gull which is on the Review Species list. The lone Slaty-backed Gull and Tropical Parula records for Mississippi were deemed misidentifications; any future observations of these two species would be reviewed by the Committee as new species to Mississippi. These species were added to this list during 2017: American Flamingo, Whooping

Crane, Monk Parakeet, Couch's Kingbird, Scaly-breasted Munia, and Altamira Oriole. Couch's Kingbird was accepted by the MBRC during 2017, but records of these other species were deemed to have questionable origin. Their identifications were deemed accurate, therefore they were added to the Review Species list to encourage additional documentation across the state.

The MBRC requests documentation, including details, descriptions, and photographs of all records of the following species: Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Cinnamon Teal, Eurasian Wigeon, King Eider, American Flamingo, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, White-crowned Pigeon, Band-tailed Pigeon, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Lesser Nighthawk, Mexican Violetear, Anna's Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, White-eared Hummingbird, Black Rail, Limpkin, Whooping Crane, Mountain Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, Purple Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Razorbill, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Black-headed Gull, Little Gull, California Gull, Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Brown Noddy, Bridled Tern, Roseate Tern, Arctic Tern, Cory's Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Great Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Jabiru, Masked Booby, Brown Booby, Great Cormorant, White-tailed Kite, Northern Goshawk, Harris's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Snowy Owl, Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Crested Caracara, Prairie Falcon, Monk Parakeet, Western Wood-Pewee, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Couch's Kingbird, Cassin's Kingbird, Gray Kingbird, Black-capped Vireo, Bell's Vireo, Black-whiskered Vireo, Rock Wren, Bewick's Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Sage Thrasher, Scaly-



breasted Munia, Citrine Wagtail, Sprague's Pipit, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, Lesser Goldfinch, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Smith's Longspur, McCown's Longspur, Snow Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Spotted Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Hooded Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, Altamira Oriole, Shiny Cowbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Bachman's Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Painted Redstart, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, and any species new to Mississippi.

**BIRDS AROUND THE STATE:  
FALL 2017-WINTER 2017/2018**

Compiled by  
Nicholas A. Winstead  
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science  
2148 Riverside Dr.  
Jackson, MS 39202

The following is a summary of noteworthy bird sightings in Mississippi for fall 2017 and winter 2017/2018 (1 August 2017-28 February 2018). 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: (Ac) = accidental, (Ca) = casual, (E) = early date, (L) = late date, (N) = unusually large number, (R) = species rare in area, (RS) = species rare in that season, (U) = species uncommon in area, (US) = species uncommon in that season. Other abbreviations used include the following: ad = adult, Co. = County, cos. = counties, f = female/s, imm = immature/s, m = male/s, m.ob. = many observers, MSU = Mississippi State University, NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, pl = plumage, Rd. = Road, and S.L. = Sewage Lagoon. The list of sightings is followed by a key to observers' 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 the 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*), and will also be 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

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK -- 6, 5 Aug., Mayersville, CD (Ac) [Review List Species]

ROSS'S GOOSE -- 1 ad, 30 Oct., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (U, E); 2, 21 Nov., 2 mi. east of Brooksville, JH (U); 2, 14-18 Dec., Bluff Lake, Noxubee and Oktibbeha cos., JH, PM (U); 1-4, 20 Dec.-12 Jan., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, JH, MS (U); 1, 21-22 Dec., Broadwater Sun Golf Course, Biloxi, HC (R)

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- 1, continued from spring-12 Sep., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS, JH (RS)

CAACKLING GOOSE -- 4, 30 Dec., Southaven, HC, JL (R)

CINNAMON TEAL -- 1, 6 Sep., Pascagoula, BW (Ac) [Review List Species]

NORTHERN SHOVELER -- 1, continued from spring-29 Aug., West Point S.L., TS (RS)

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK -- 2, 17-25 Jan., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS, JH, PM (U)

RING-NECKED DUCK -- 1 m, continued from summer-30 Sep., Stan Tabor Rd., JH, TS, MS (RS)

SURF SCOTER -- 1 f/imm, 9 Nov., West Point S.L., TS (R)

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER -- 1-2, 23, 29 Dec., Pass Christian Harbor, HC (R)

LONG-TAILED DUCK -- 1, 19 Nov., Prairie Point Rd. catfish ponds, Noxubee Co., JH (R); 1, 1 Jan., Broadwater Marina, Biloxi, HC (R); 1, 4 Jan., Ross Barnett Reservoir, Ridgeland, AB (R)

COMMON MERGANSER -- 1 f, 27 Dec., Ross Barnett Reservoir, Ridgeland, AB (R)

INCA DOVE -- 5, 2 Dec., Moss Point, HC, RP (U)

WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- 2, 22 Aug., Greenwood, HB (R)

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO -- 1 ad, 13 Sep., Plymouth Bluff, JO, PM (R); 1 ad, 2 Oct., Plymouth Bluff, JO (R)

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI -- 1, 4-15 Nov., Hiller Park, Biloxi, HC, BW, BJ, DM, TS, MS, JH, NB, m.ob. (Ac) [Review List Species]

GROOVE-BILLED ANI -- 1, 13 Oct., Tillman St., Moss Point, HC (R)

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD -- 1, 18 Nov., Deer Drive, Bay Saint Louis, HC (R)

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 ad f, 1 Dec.-spring, Ables residence, Mayhew, IA, JH, TS, MS, PM, BD, SR (R)

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD -- 1, 3-5 Oct., Pass Christian, MR (R); 1, 6 Jan., Pascagoula, HC, LJ (R)

VIRGINIA RAIL -- 3, 16 Dec., Priscock Field, Noxubee NWR, Winston Co., TS, MS (RS); 1, 10-13 Jan., Loakfoma Lake, Noxubee Co., JH, PM, IB, BD (RS)

SORA -- 1, 1 Dec.-9 Feb., Starkville S.L., TS, MS (RS)

PURPLE GALLINULE -- 6, continued from spring-24 Oct., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., TS, MS, JH, m.ob. (R); 6, continued from spring-24 Oct., Loakfoma Lake, Noxubee Co., TS, MS, JH, m.ob. (R)

COMMON GALLINULE -- up to 3, continued from spring-6 Nov., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., TS, MS, JH, m.ob. (R); up to 8, continued from spring-6 Nov., Loakfoma Lake, Noxubee Co., TS, MS, JH, m.ob. (R)

SANDHILL CRANE -- 3-44, 21 Nov.-12 Feb., Cooksville Rd., Noxubee Co., JH, PM, TS, MS (R)

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER -- 2 ad, 30 Aug., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS, JH (R)

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER -- 1, 10 Oct., Lynn Creek Rd. catfish ponds, TS (L)

UPLAND SANDPIPER -- 1, 2 Aug., Stan Tabor Rd., TS, MS (U, E)

DUNLIN -- 5, 5-13 Dec., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (RS); up to 25, 8 Dec.-31 Jan., Lynn Creek Rd., TS, JH, MS, IB, BD, PM (RS)

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER -- up to 3, 4-18 Sep., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS, JH, PM (U)

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER -- 1, 1-16 Aug., Stan Tabor Rd., AB, JH, TS, MS, m.ob. (R)

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER -- 1, 11-12 Aug., MSU North Farm, TS, MS, JH, PM (U); 4, 26 Aug., West Ship Island, HC, LG (R); 1, 30 Aug., MSU North Farm, TS, JH (U); 2, 6 Sep., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (U); 1, 9 Sep., MSU North Farm, JH (U); 1, 12 Sep., Biloxi, HC (R)

SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- 1, 1-17 Dec., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, MS, TS (RS)

SOLITARY SANDPIPER -- 1, 23 Oct., Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co., TS (L)

LAUGHING GULL -- 1, 12 Feb., Flowood, AB (U)

ICELAND GULL -- 1-2 1<sup>st</sup> winter pl, 9 Dec.-spring, Pass Christian Harbor, BW, BJ, HC, NB, JH, MS, TS, m.ob. (Ac); 1-2 1<sup>st</sup> winter pl, 19 Jan.-spring, Washington St. Pier, Bay Saint Louis, BW (Ac) [Review List Species]

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL -- 1 ad, 20 Nov.-spring, Sardis Lake Dam and Lower Lake, Panola Co., JR, TS, MS, JH, m.ob. (R)

GLAUCOUS GULL -- 1, 24 Feb.-spring, Pass Christian Harbor, HC, BW (Ca) [Review List Species]

LEAST TERN -- 2, 3 Aug., West Point S.L., TS (U); 1, 18 Aug., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (U); 2, 21-22 Aug., West Point S.L., TS (U); 1, 30 Aug., Prairie Point Rd. catfish ponds, Noxubee Co., JH (U)

BLACK TERN -- 1, 9 Oct., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., TS (L)

WOOD STORK -- 3000, continued from summer-11 Aug., St. Catherine Creek NWR, Adams Co., MSt, BS, JS (N); up to 60, continued from summer-22 Sep., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, JH, MS, PM (U); up to 500, continued from summer-29 Sep., Stan Tabor Rd., TS, MS, JH, WJ (U, N); up to 100, continued from summer-20 Oct., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., TS, JH, MS, m.ob. (U); up to 125, 13 Aug.-6 Oct., Greenbrier Rd., Noxubee Co., JH (U); 1-2, 1 Sep., 8 Oct., Columbus Lake, Lowndes Co., JO, TS (U); 43, 6 Sep., Catalpa Creek bottoms, Lowndes Co., MP (U); up to 15, 10-13 Sep., Plymouth Bluff, PM, JO (U); up to 7, 11-14 Sep., Section Line Rd., Columbus, PM (U); up to 150, 18-23 Sep., Lynn Creek Rd. catfish ponds, JH, TS, MS (U)

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT -- 2500-3000, continued from summer-11 Aug., St. Catherine Creek NWR, Adams Co., MSt, BS, JS (N)

ANHINGA -- up to 6, continued from spring-1 Jan., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., TS, MS, JH, m.ob. (U); 1, 2 Nov., White's Slough, Lowndes Co., PM (R)

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON -- 1 imm, continued from spring-5 Aug., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., MS, PM (U); up to 12,

continued from summer-26 Oct., Stan Tabor Rd., JH, TS (U, L); 1, 18 Oct., Lynn Creek Rd., JH (U); up to 38, 7-15 Jan., Stan Tabor Rd., JH, JS, MS (RS)

WHITE-FACED IBIS -- 1, 18 Oct., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., TS (R, L)

ROSEATE SPOONBILL -- 300-500, continued from summer-11 Aug., St. Catherine Creek NWR, Adams Co., MSt, BS, JS (N); 2 imm, 15 Aug., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, JH (R); up to 6 imm, 23 Aug.-23 Oct., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., JO, JH, TS, MP, m.ob. (R); 12, 2 Sep., Stan Tabor Rd., WJ (R, N); up to 4 imm, 3 Sep.-4 Oct., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS, JH, PM (R); 5, 11 Sep., Section Line Rd., Columbus, PM (R); 2, 30 Sep., Lynn Creek Rd., JH (R)

OSPREY -- 1, 7 Dec.-20 Feb., Browning Creek, Oktibbeha Co., TS, LB, FB, MS, LGi, JH, BD (RS); 1, 27 Feb., Plymouth Bluff, MP, JO (RS); 2, 28 Feb., Columbus Lake, Lowndes Co., TS (RS)

SWAINSON'S HAWK -- 1, 12 Dec., Broadwater Sun Golf Course, Biloxi, LG (Ca) [Review List Species]

RED-TAILED-HAWK -- 1 imm "Harlan's", 13-29 Dec., Pride Rd., Panola Co., RB, HM, JH, TS, MS, LG (R)

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK -- 1, 29 Oct., Chickasaw Village Site, Natchez Trace, Tupelo, WP (Ac); 1 dark morph imm, 15 Dec.-25 Feb., Pride Rd., Panola Co., HM, JHo, AB, MD, TS, MS, JH, WP, m.ob. (Ac) [Review List Species]

MERLIN -- 1 f/imm, 10 Sep., Plymouth Bluff, PM (R); 1 f/imm, 13-17 Sep., Stan Tabor Rd., JH (R); 1 f/imm, 29 Sep., Lynn Creek



Rd. catfish ponds, JH (R); 1 f/imm, 5 Nov., MSU South Farm, JH (R); 1 f/imm, 6 Nov., Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co., JH (R); 1 f/imm, 16 Nov.-17 Dec., Browning Creek, Oktibbeha Co., TS (R); 1 f/imm, 19 Nov., Stan Tabor Rd., JH (R); 1 imm m, 7 Dec.-6 Jan., Browning Creek, Oktibbeha Co., TS, MS (R); 1 ad m, 1 Jan., MSU South Farm, TS, MS (R); 1 f/imm, 6-12 Jan., MSU North Farm, JH, BD (R); 1, 21 Jan., Lynn Creek Rd., LGi (R); 1 f/imm, 29 Jan., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, AB (R)

PEREGRINE FALCON -- 1 imm, 8 Dec., Pilgrims Rest Rd., Noxubee Co., TS (R); 1, 15 Jan., Stan Tabor Rd., TS, MS (R)

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER -- 1, 11 Oct., Biloxi, HC (R, L)

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER -- 1, 1 Sep., Noxubee NWR, Oktibbeha Co., TS (U)

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER -- 1, 14 Oct., Plymouth Bluff, PM, JO (L)

GRAY FLYCATCHER -- 1, 30 Oct., Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Jackson Co., MiS (Ac) [Review List Species]

SAY'S PHOEBE -- 1, 12 Oct., Seaman Rd. S.L., Jackson Co., SM (Ac); 1, 30 Dec., Morgan City, HM (Ac); 1, 18 Feb., Okolona, WP (Ac) [Review List Species]

VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- 1, 22 Oct., Hiller Park, Biloxi, HC (R)

TROPICAL KINGBIRD -- 1, 14-16 Oct., Tillman St., Pascagoula, BW, NW, GK, TS, MS, JHo, JR, BJ, HC, m.ob. (Ac) [Review List Species]

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER -- 1 m, 1 f, 1 imm, continued from spring-4 Aug., Sessums Rd., Oktibbeha Co., TS, BD, JH, m.ob. (R)

WHITE-EYED VIREO -- 1, 17 Dec., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., TS (RS)

TREE SWALLOW -- 3, 2 Feb., Columbus Lake, Lowndes Co., TS (E)

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 1, 2 Dec., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., TS, MS, JH, LC (RS); 1, 10 Dec., Edmonds Bridge Rd., Noxubee Co., JH (RS)

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- 1, 15 Sep., Starkville, JH (E)

GRAY CATBIRD -- 1, 3 Feb.-spring, Plymouth Bluff, PM, IB, BD, TS (RS)

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW -- 1, 22 Oct., Hattiesburg S.L., LGi (Ca); 1, 11 Nov., Broadwater Sun Golf Course, Biloxi, LGi (Ca) [Review List Species]

LARK SPARROW -- 1, continued from spring-9 Sep., MSU North Farm, TS, JH (U); 1-2, continued from spring-29 Sep., Stan Tabor Rd., AB, JH (U); 1, 5 and 19 Sep., Biloxi, HC (R); 1, 16 Sep., Blocker Rd., Oktibbeha Co., JH, PM (U); 2, 17 Oct., Judge Thomas Rd., Clay Co., DP, JP (U)

LECONTE'S SPARROW -- 1, 4 Nov.-11 Dec., Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co., MC, DP, MS, JD, JM, IB, BP, m.ob. (U); 3, 16 Dec., Prisock Field, Noxubee NWR, Winston Co., TS, MS (U)

LINCOLN'S SPARROW -- 1, 17, 26 and 31 Oct., 10 Nov., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS (U); 1, 29 Oct., Judge Thomas Rd., Clay Co., PM, JO (U); 1, 31 Oct., Old Vinton Rd., Clay Co., PM, JO (U); 1, 7 Nov., Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co., JO (U)

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE -- 1, 27 Oct., Pascagoula, HC (Ac); 1, 30-31 Jan., Hattiesburg, LGi (Ac) [Review List Species]

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER -- 1-4, 9 Sep.-2 Oct., Plymouth Bluff, PM, JO, TS, NK (U); 1, 11 Sep., Tibbee Lake, Clay Co., TS (U); 1, 12 and 22 Sep., 8 Oct., Section Line Rd., Columbus, PM, JH (U); 1, 13 and 28 Sep., 2 Oct., Noxubee NWR, Noxubee and Winston cos., TS (U); 1, 7 Oct., Columbus Riverwalk, JH (U)

SWAINSON'S WARBLER -- 1, continued from spring-31 Aug., Columbus Riverwalk, PM (U); 1, continued from spring-2 Sep., Bright Rd., Choctaw Co., JH (U); 1, continued from spring-6 Sep., Section Line Rd., Columbus, PM, JO (U); 1, continued from spring-10 Sep., Plymouth Bluff, PM, JO (U); 1, continued from spring-18 Sep., Polly Bell Rd., Oktibbeha Co., TS, MS (U); 1, 4 Sep., P.D. Fulgham Rd., Oktibbeha Co., MS (U); 1, 16 Sep., Noxubee NWR, Oktibbeha Co., PM (U); 1, 16 Sep., Wade Rd., Oktibbeha Co., TS (U)

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 1, 2 Oct., Plymouth Bluff, PM, JO (E)

NASHVILLE WARBLER -- 2, 2 Nov., White's Slough, Lowndes Co., JO, PM (U); 1, 13 Nov., Cleveland, LP (L)

CERULEAN WARBLER -- 1, 16 Sep., Noxubee NWR, Oktibbeha Co., JH (RS)

PALM WARBLER -- 1, 8 Dec., Dwelling Place Rd., Noxubee Co., TS (US); 1, 9 Dec.-25 Jan., MSU South Farm, TS (US); 1, 16 Dec., Blocker Rd., Oktibbeha Co., LT, MC (US); 2, 16-17 Dec., Upton Rd., Noxubee Co., JH, IB, JD, TS (US); 1, 28 Dec., Stan Tabor Rd., JH (US); 1, 28 Dec., Greenbrier Rd., Noxubee Co., JH (US); 1, 21 Jan., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, LGi (US); up to 3, 29 Jan.-23 Feb., Lynn Creek Rd., TS, MS (US); 1, 30 Jan., Paulette Rd., Noxubee Co., MS (US)

PAINTED BUNTING -- 1 ad m, 1 f, continued from spring-9 Aug., Harris Rd., Oktibbeha Co., TS (U); 1 ad m, continued from summer-9 Aug., Sessums Rd., Oktibbeha Co., TS (U); 1 f/imm, 18 Aug., Judge Thomas Rd., Clay Co., TS (U); 1 ad m, 1 f/imm, 27 Aug. and 7 Oct., Stan Tabor Rd., JH (U); 1 f/imm, 28 Aug., MSU North Farm, TS (U)

## CONTRIBUTORS

Ida Belle Ables, Andy Bell, Isaac Boden, Florence Box, Larry Box, Ned Boyajian, Hilda Bracken, Robert Briscoe, Linda Cambre, Margaret Copeland, Holly Cox, Joe Diaz, Christy Dickinson, Mark Dolan, Brady Dunaway, Lillie Gibb (LGi), Libby Graves, Jeffrey Harris, Jason Hoeksema (JHo), Lucy Jacobson, Wes Jarnigan, Brian Johnston, Gene Knight, Nicole Koeltzow, June Ladner, Paul Mack, Don McKee, Sharon Milligan, Hal Mitchell, Joe Mulrooney, Jimmy Osborne, Larry Pace, Bill Parker, Michael Parrish, Dianne Patterson, Jimmy Patterson, Wayne Patterson, Rhonda Plitt, J.R. Rigby, Scott Rush, Mike Ryan, Marion Schiefer, Terence Schiefer, Judy Shearer, Mike Stewart (MiS), Bill Stripling, Mary Stripling (MSt), Lauren Thead, Bryan White, Nick Winstead

## **KEY TO LOCALITIES**

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

Lynn Creek Rd. = Noxubee Co.; MSU North/South Farm = Oktibbeha Co.; Plymouth Bluff = Lowndes Co.; Stan Tabor Rd. = Noxubee Co.

## **BRIEF FIELD NOTES**



### **POSSIBLE WHITE-EYED VIREO COURTSHIP DANCE**

Andy Bell - 103 Claiborne St., Madison, MS 39110

On 19 April 2018, I observed a pair of White-eyed Vireos (*Vireo griseus*) feeding in a mixed hardwood/pine forest in Ridgeland, Mississippi. They were in the understory in privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) feeding near one another. The male perched on an exposed branch about 1 m away from the female, and began singing a fast version of the typical song with feathers slightly puffed and wings slightly hanging down. This rapid song was repeated for about one minute. He then moved to within 0.3 m of the female on the same branch, and continued to sing. Then he flipped upside down on the same branch, but hung beneath the female, and began rocking from side to side and peering upward on either side of the branch. This display continued for less than 30 seconds. After finishing his performance, the pair flew off into thicker cover.

### **WHITE-WINGED DOVES INCREASE NEAR GREENVILLE**

Andy Bell - 103 Claiborne St., Madison, MS 39110

During September of 2013 and 2014, White-winged Doves (*Zenaida asiatica*) were present in small numbers (three-four birds)

on a sunflower field on the south end of Greenville. Then, in 2015, the population increased. The afternoon before dove season opened, a friend and I watched close to 50 White-winged Doves and several hundred Mourning Doves (*Zenaida macroura*) enter the field, and land on the sunflower heads. The flight of the White-winged Doves appeared much slower than that of Mourning Doves, and the white patches on the wings flashed, making their identification easy. The following afternoon, the White-winged Doves arrived at this site later than the Mourning Doves in flocks of 10-20 birds. By the end of the afternoon, I saw approximately 150 White-winged Doves. Hunters on the field harvested around 40 White-winged doves.

I did not look for White-winged Doves in 2016, but I began seeing them around town as early as April 2017 and continued seeing them most of that summer. One bird (presumably the same individual) was regularly observed at my parents' house, and I would see them while driving along the Mississippi River levee. In September 2017, I watched over 30 White-winged Doves feed in a field four miles east of the field referenced above. This field had honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) trees along its perimeter, and the doves landed in these before moving into the field to feed. Some of these birds appeared to be juveniles. I have seen multiple White-winged Doves during June 2018. I believe they may be breeding in the area but have not been able to locate any nests.

**ERRATUM: FIRST AND SECOND MISSISSIPPI RECORDS  
OF COUCH'S KINGBIRD (*TYRANNUS COUCHII*)**

J.R. Rigby<sup>1</sup> and Brian Johnston<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 305 Garner St.

Oxford, MS 38655

<sup>2</sup> 1506 Woodhaven St.

Pascagoula, MS 39581

In our article on the first and second state records of Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*) in *The Mississippi Kite* (Rigby and Johnston 2017), the last date the bird at Singing River Island was observed was reported as 20 April 2017 (p. 48, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph). The last date the bird was observed should have been reported as 20 April 2016.

**LITERATURE CITED**

Rigby, J.R., and B. Johnston. 2017. First and second Mississippi records of Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*). *The Mississippi Kite* 47(1):44-49.





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