

THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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<u>Front Cover</u> : Newly hatched Least Tern chick, 26 June 1976, Gulfport, Mississippi. Photograph by J.A. Jackson.		

A Brief History of Efforts to Protect the Least Tern
on the Mississippi Coast

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Between twenty-five and thirty years ago, before the development of "the world's longest man-made beach", which runs 28 miles from Biloxi Bay to the Bay of St. Louis, many species of gulls, terns, and shorebirds nested on the unmanicured and little used beaches. After development of the beach, burgeoning tourist industry and enormous growth in human population demanded that all that relocated sand be kept in immaculate condition and so the beach was cleaned by bulldozers and raking machines every week or two. Nesting birds were victimized along with areas of natural vegetation. Few if any birds were successful in their nesting efforts and the result was a gradual decline in the numbers of birds even attempting to nest. The mechanized monoliths had scored an apparent victory.

Several years ago, Ethel Floyd, Past President of MOS and an ardent recorder of avian events, took notice of some small numbers of Least Terns (Sterna albifrons) who were industriously preparing to nest along a section of beach in Gulfport; she contacted the Board of Supervisors of Harrison County who viewed the situation with apathetic amusement, and continued their single-minded efforts to keep Coast beaches free of trash. One might find many an old beer can, or sever an artery on a broken bottle, but never let it be said that any living thing, from sea oat to Least Tern disrupted the monotony of the coastal Sahara. To her everlasting credit, Ethel Floyd is dauntless; when, in the following April, she noted again that Least Terns were back in the same area, she enlisted the aid of MOS past-president Marjorie Cleveland of Gulfport. Armed with the magical influence of a state-wide organization, Ethel and Margie put some real pressure on the Board of Supervisors, until Arlan Robinson, Supervisor, Beat 5 agreed to leave the one-mile section of beach for the proliferation of the Least Terns.

A modicum of nesting success was noted that season, 1974, and Mr. Robinson, prior to the nesting season of 1975, directed that signs be erected on the beach, informing the public that Least Terns were nesting and to use caution in the area. There was an immediate outcry from enraged citizenry and owners of commercial enterprises, protesting the loss of one mile of recreational area and deploring the "unsightliness" of the beach, which, as the nesting season progressed, sprouted vegetation which young Least Terns quickly took advantage of, seeking shelter from the sun and the danger of human interlopers.

Meanwhile, conservation minded citizens began to make their feelings known; for a while there existed quite a verbal melee in the pages of the Gulfport Daily Herald, and the meeting of the Board of Supervisors often became a shouting match, some of the supervisors protested in the name of their constituents while Mr. Robinson, having already put his political

future on the line, stuck to his promise to leave the area for the birds.

During the 1975 nesting season, there appeared in a one and one half mile area between Long Beach and Pass Christian, another colony of Least Terns who went about their nesting business with few interruptions, thanks to the lagging efforts of the beach cleaners. As the Gulfport nesting area grew in popular appeal, there began to appear an odd assortment of sticks and flags, each one marking a nest site; this was the work of a number of local residents who took it upon themselves to increase the odds in behalf of the Least Terns. As one who in 1975 marked approximately 350 nests in the Gulfport area, I roughly estimated that there were 1000 nesting pairs in the combined colonies.

Directly after the 1975 nesting season, the beach was returned to the people, nicely cleaned. At the close of the tourist season, Mr. Robinson directed that small islands of vegetation be planted with several varieties of beach grasses, yucca, palms, sea oats, etc., the full effect was attractive and elicited more compliments than detractions, while at the same time providing a possible solution to the problem of blowing sand which is prevalent here during periods of strong south-east winds.

What could be a more natural endeavor for the fledgling Mississippi Coast Audubon Society than that they undertake as their first official conservation project, a complete survey of the nesting colonies. This was done with as much attendant publicity through newspaper and TV as we could muster. We had obtained the cooperation of the supervisors, Billy McDonald and Hue Snowden, whose jurisdictional areas of beach encompassed the one continuous area between Long Beach and Pass Christian. They agreed to leave the colonies free of mechanized disruption during the nesting season. MCAS made and posted a dozen signs in the area, and on 18 May 1976 began the concentrated effort to mark every nest. What a revelation that our survey revealed a total of 2100 nesting pairs of Least Terns on the Gulfport beach, and approximately 2300 nesting pairs in Long Beach-Pass Christian. While MCAS members were involved in the survey there appeared numbers of people, both resident and tourist, who expressed great interest in the area, and it soon became apparent that local citizens were regarding all Terns, nests, and colonies as a possession to be cared for, looked after, and bragged about. The tide had definitely turned.

As the season progressed, with no unusual high tides and very little rain, success was apparent. Although some controversy exists over the merits of marking nests, my own opinion, based on observation is that marked nests have the definite advantage of extra protection against human carelessness. Other human visitors used a variety of flotsam and jetsam to mark nests that we missed. As the season progressed, the beach became less appealing to the curious for the sun was mercilessly hot and the vegetation, which by then covered the area, included that vicious little sand burr, an effective deterrent to humans but an unfortunate tormentor of young Least Terns.

Late in June we pondered the future of the nesting areas, which were

a whimsical thing left only to the discretion of the supervisors, who at any time might proclaim that enough is enough and turn the nesting areas back to recreational areas. Since MCAS felt that we were riding the tide of enlightened and favorable public opinion, an announcement was made on WLOX TV, late in June as part of the nightly news broadcast. In an interview done on the beach, with the subjects of our concern delightfully visible, I made a plea for public support of our intention to ask the Board of Supervisors to designate both of these major colonies as permanent sanctuaries during the nesting season.

Two weeks later, a delegation of MCAS went before the Board of Supervisors, presenting our public commendation to Mr. Arlan Robinson for his original efforts and the resultant spectacular success during 1976. In his acceptance remarks he called upon other supervisors to join him in assigning a permanent designation to the nesting colonies, to which they unhesitatingly and surprisingly agreed. A resolution is currently being written to that effect and we do regard that the colonies have an official permanent status as of that meeting.

We understand that these colonies may represent some of the largest on the mainland. It is certainly unique that they lie only several feet south of the heavily travelled U.S. Highway 90. The South Mississippi Development District is preparing a booklet for distribution within the tourist industry, outlining the history of the nesting areas, and several articles are being written for possible inclusion in national publications.

We don't feel that the entire problem is solved. With the spread of publicity there is a natural increase of nature lovers and the idly curious who wish to see the breeding cycle of the Least Tern. We feel that with good sound advice from conservationists, we may continue to have a thriving colony and still allow limited access to the sanctuaries. In that regard we are considering the use of boardwalks from parking bay to tideline and will give consideration to any worthwhile suggestions as to how MCAS can effectively work with the Board of Supervisors.

Some Aspects of the Nesting Ecology of Least Terns
on the Mississippi Gulf Coast

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Least Terns (*Sterna albifrons*) have been known to breed on the Mississippi Gulf islands and on the mainland beaches for many years (Gandy and Turcotte 1970, Jackson 1973, Toups 1976). Only recently, however, has the species received much attention. During 1976 I had the opportunity to briefly study a Least Tern nesting area on the beach at Gulfport. In this paper I will discuss (1) nesting habitat of these birds, (2) the timing of nesting, (3) variation in the eggs and chicks, (4) chick mortality and threats to the mainland colonies, and (5) management needed to assure the future of Least Tern nesting colonies on the Mississippi coast.

Nesting Habitat

Through the efforts of Judy Toups and others, the Harrison County board of supervisors has given official protection to the Least Tern colony along the beach at Gulfport. The beach was approximately 50 yards wide at the colony I visited and was separated from the city of Gulfport by the very busy four-lane, U.S. 90 (Fig. 1). Between the highway and the beach is a low concrete wall which no doubt helps to prevent erosion of the beach

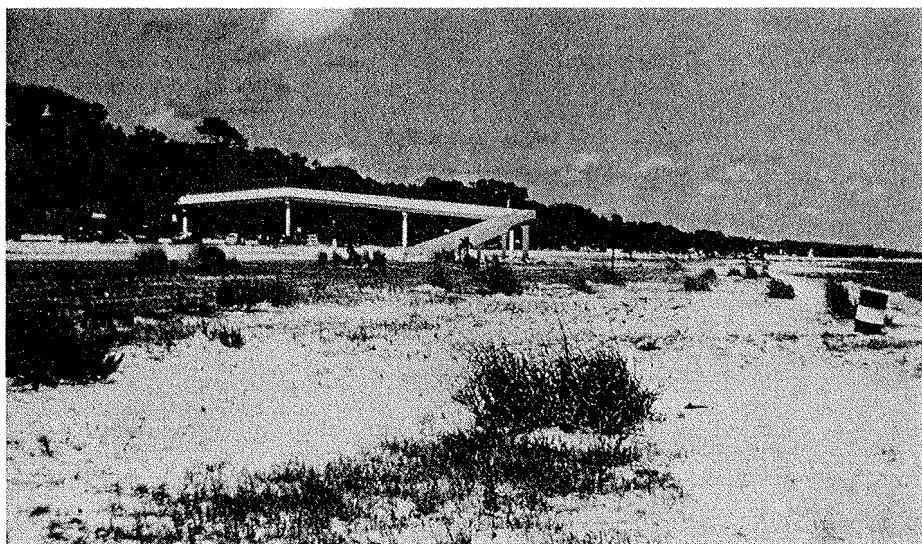


Figure 1. Most Least Tern nests on the beach at Gulfport were located in the sparse vegetation in the center and to the left of this photograph.

and drifting of sand across the highway, but which also, and very importantly, keeps Least Tern chicks away from the highway. Judy Toups and the Gulf Coast Audubon Society had carefully marked Least Tern nests in the colony earlier in the season. From their markers it was obvious that most nests were in a strand approximately 15 yards from the normal high water, 15 yards from the highway, and about 300 yards long. This area was also where vegetation was most prevalent, though at best it was sparse. The dominant vegetation was sandspur (Cenchrus sp.).

Most nests were little more than shallow depressions in the sand (Fig. 2), but a few, perhaps 10%, included obviously collected and deliberately placed bits of shell (Fig. 3).



Figure 2. A typical Least Tern nest consisting of only a shallow depression in a sparsely vegetated area. This nest was being frequently visited by adult terns as can be seen by the tracks in the sand. The sand around abandoned nests was usually smooth, having been "cleaned" of tracks by the wind.

Timing of Nesting

In 1972 I recorded the earliest Gulf coast breeding record for the Least Tern on 7 May (Jackson 1973). Other records indicate that the species commonly begins nesting here in May (Gandy and Turcotte 1970).

The peak of the nesting season seems to have been in June in 1976. When I visited the Gulfport colony on 26-27 June there were several hundred recently fledged Least Terns present on the beaches, a few incubating adults, and hundreds of chicks. Judy Toups, Richard Rummel, Wayne Weber, and I examined nests and banded chicks for 5 hours along the Gulfport Beach. Of 190 nests found with eggs, 101 had only a single egg, 87 contained 2 eggs, and 2 contained 3 eggs. It was evident that egg-laying was still in progress, though many of the nests with one egg had been abandoned.

I arbitrarily placed each chick into one of five size classes (see Figs 3-7). Chicks in size class 0 were newly hatched and still in the nest. Chicks in class 1 were downy, showed no signs of developing primaries, and had left the nest. On the basis of Hardy's (1957) descriptions, I estimate



Figure 3. Newly hatched Least Tern chicks (my size class 0). The parents of these chicks lined their nest with bits of shell. These chicks illustrate the two color phases I observed in downy young.

that chicks in my size class 1 ranged in age from 2 to 5 days. Chicks in size class 2 had primary quills emerging and were well into their post-natal molt. I estimate their ages to have ranged from about 6 to 9 days. Class 3 included chicks whose wing feathers were approximately 1/3 to 1/2 grown and whose age probably ranged from about 10 to 13 days. Chicks in size class 4 were near adult size and difficult to catch, but were incapable of flight. These chicks still showed some down and probably ranged from about 14 to 17 days old. Chicks in class 5 were nearly fully feathered and were capable of short but not sustained flight. These probably ranged from 18-21 days old. Assignment of chicks to these size classes was solely by their appearance. Except for newly hatched chicks, none were of known age.

Of 273 chicks found, 72 were in size class 0, 65 in class 1, 38 in class 2, 39 in class 3, 52 in class 4, and 7 in class 5. Although we found nests and young representing most stages of the breeding cycle on 26 June, there did appear to be some degree of nesting synchrony within subsections of the colony. More eggs and newly hatched young were present on a portion of the beach where the vegetation was barely emergent, whereas older young were more frequently found where the vegetation was more developed. There did not appear to be any differences in the spacing or relative numbers of nests in the two areas.



Figure 4. Two chicks found together that characterize those I placed in size class 2. These I estimate were about 8 days old. Note the plumage variation.

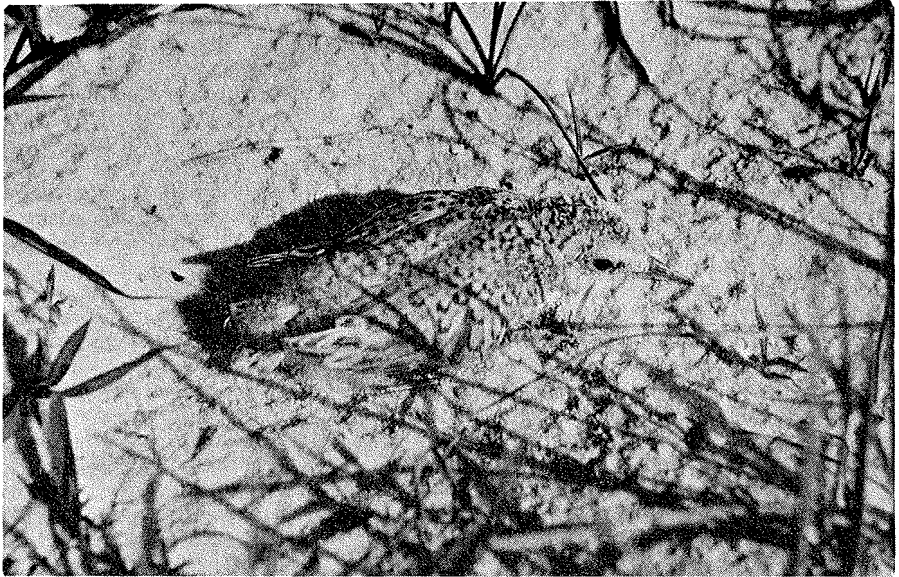


Figure 5. A chick well into its post-natal molt (size class 3).



Figure 6. A well-feathered chick, still showing some down and incapable of flight (size class 4).

On 7 August I again visited the Gulfport colony, this time with my wife Nancy, and Bob and Kathy Esher. We found and banded 6 Least Tern chicks, all in an area with only scattered emergent vegetation. This area was at the west end of the colony and had been primarily bare sand on 26 June. The areas of our previous work were now ragged with weeds, though by no means overgrown. Of the chicks captured, one was in size class 1, two in class 2, one in class 3, and two in class 4. While there were still a few eggs in nest scrapes on the beach, I could find no nests that looked active. The remaining eggs were likely infertile or otherwise abandoned. Scores of recently fledged young were present in groups near the water edge.

Assuming that the youngest chick banded on 7 August was 2 days old (which was my estimate at the time I found it), and that if successful it would fledge at the age of 20 days, the nesting season at the Gulfport colony would have lasted until about 25 August. Thus, breeding activities at the Mississippi coastal Least Tern colonies may span nearly four months from the laying of the first eggs to fledging of the last young. Within this time period it might be possible for some birds to raise two broods, but no data are available to evaluate this possibility. It seems more likely that the late nesters were birds that renested after having lost their first eggs or young.

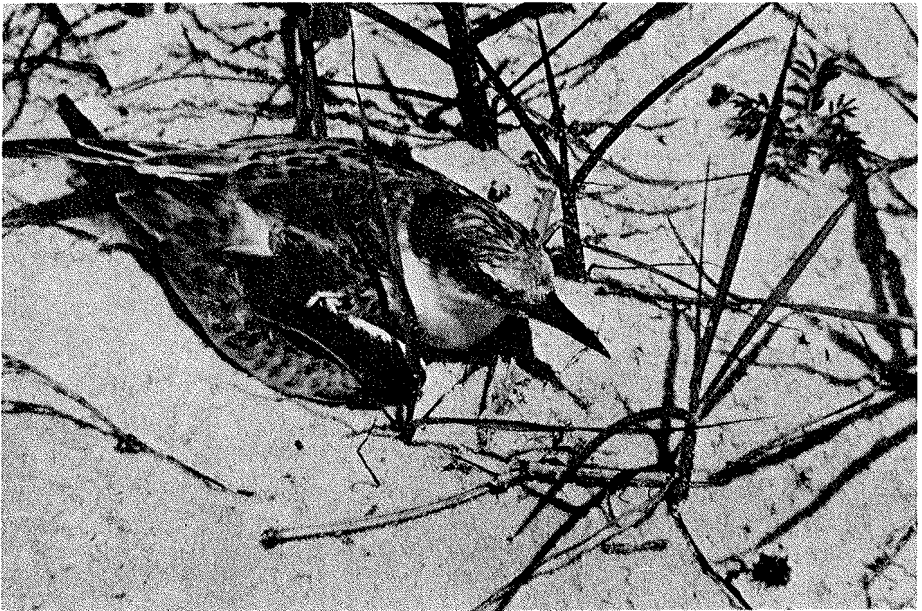


Figure 7. A Least Tern chick that was capable of short, but not sustained flight (size class 5).

Variation in the Eggs and Chicks of Mississippi Least Terns

In the course of studying the Least Tern colony at Gulfport, I noticed that the color and markings on eggs varied among and within clutches. I did not quantify this variation, but eggs varied from a plain pale tan to slightly darker with light to dark brown spots scattered over the surface.

Chicks also varied in color. I was not aware of the variation when we began our banding efforts, but as I became aware of the variation I began recording the frequency of occurrence of each variant type. In the end I recorded three basic leg colors: flesh, yellow, and orange; three patterns of marking on the top of the head: plain, spotted, and streaked; and two basic colors of down covering the upper surface of young chicks: tan and white (see Fig. 3). As noted for Royal Terns (*Thalasseus maximus*) by Buckley and Buckley (1970), Least Tern chicks in juvenal plumage were also quite variable. The frequency of occurrence of color variation in Least Tern chicks at Gulfport is summarized in Table 1. Sample sizes for body color variation are small because I did not begin recording this characteristic until very late. Nevertheless, both white and tan birds were common among downy chicks and the difference between the two down colors was quite distinct (Fig. 3). Whatever their down color, most downy chicks had flesh-colored legs and spotted heads. Yellow and orange legs were more prevalent among older chicks than they were among downy chicks.

Table 1. Frequency of leg, head, and down color variation in Least Tern chicks at Gulfport, Mississippi, 26 June 1976.

Age class	Number of chicks per age class					
	0	1	2	3	4	5
Leg color:						
Flesh	55	54	18	11	23	2
Yellow	3	9	12	14	17	3
Orange	0	0	4	4	3	0
Head markings:						
Plain	14	15	7	10*	37**	4
Spotted	43	46	27	21	7	1
Streaked	1	6	1	1	0	0
Down color:						
Tan	15	5	3	-	-	-
White	5	8	0	-	-	-

* Transitional between natal and juvenal plumage. ** Juvenal plumage.

The color patterns that Buckley and Buckley (1970) found in Royal Terns were more variable than those I observed in Least Terns. They felt that the major adaptive value of the variation had to do with thermoregulation and with recognition of chicks by their parents. Tomkins (1959) noted variation in the eggs and chicks of Least Terns in Georgia, but he made only brief

mention of it and did not comment on the possible adaptive value of the variation. I feel that, in addition to helping with thermoregulation and possibly with recognition of chicks by their parents, that this variability provides the species with protective coloration in the open and changing environment in which it nests. For example, the chicks with darker down were precisely the color of wet sand at Gulfport, whereas the lighter chicks were the color of dry sand. Further, some parts of the nesting area had more shells and plant debris mixed with the sand and the spotted chicks blended into this background better than they did against uniformly colored sand. Conversely, the uniformly colored chicks were more obvious against the varied background. It would be interesting to compare down color of chicks with nesting substrate color over a large portion of the species geographic range.

Chick Mortality and Threats to the Colonies

On 26 June we found only 18 dead Least Tern chicks in the Gulfport colony. Of these, one newly hatched chick had been crushed by a human intruder, two older chicks had been eaten by what was probably a mammalian predator (feathers and pieces of wing with feathers attached were the only remains), and the other 15 chicks had died of unknown causes. Domestic cats and dogs are common in Gulfport, but their threat to the tern colonies is probably minimized by the highway which conveniently separates the city from the beach and probably selects very strongly against those which dare to cross to the beach. An elevated walkway (Fig. 1) which was just constructed across the highway to the middle of the tern colony may increase the threat from cats and dogs as well as increasing human disturbance to the colony. I must note with admiration that the citizens of Gulfport seem to have a strong protective attitude toward their Least Tern colonies. Every 15 to 20 minutes of the five hours we worked in the colony someone would shout from one of the speeding cars on the highway for us to "Get the hell away from the birds!"

Soon after we began working with the terns we became aware of a problem which may prove to be serious. Twenty-one of the chicks we handled had been injured by sandspurs. These spine-covered seeds punctured the webbing between toes, injured wings, and were found at various other places on chicks (Fig. 8). In every case the chick was bleeding, hampered in its movements, and apparently unable to remove the sandspur. Some chicks had more than one sandspur and most had several puncture wounds from the seeds. In managing the beaches, the county board of supervisors frequently rakes the sand with heavy equipment to remove (and bury?) debris and to prevent growth of unwanted vegetation. The areas set aside for the terns are treated in this way outside of the nesting season, but during the nesting season the vegetation is allowed to grow. As a result, at the end of each season the sandspurs are mechanically "planted" only to come back in profusion during the next breeding season.

Management for the Least Tern on the Mississippi Coast

The Least Tern is characteristically a species which nests in very open areas. Soots and Parnell (1975) found that Least Tern colonies in North Carolina averaged only 2.5% vegetation cover - less than any of nine other

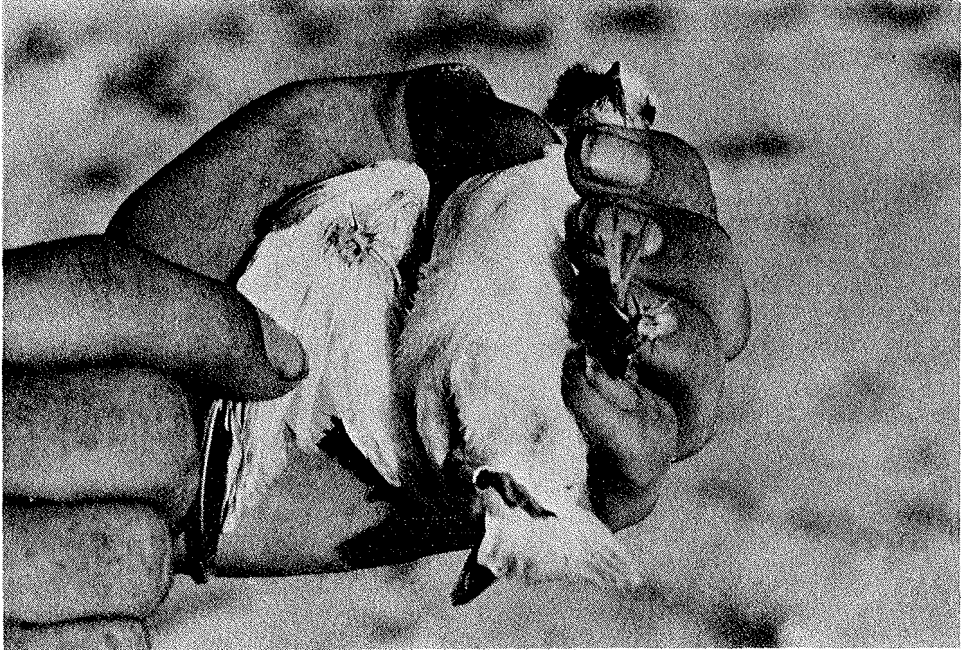


Figure 8. A Least Tern chick with sandspurs imbedded in its right wing and left leg.

colonial nesting seabirds. They also found that Least Terns preferred nesting sites with large amounts of shell mixed with the sand. Maintenance of the beach in an early successional stage (little vegetation) is very important to the continued existence of the Gulfport Least Tern colonies. At the same time, some vegetation seems to be important. Older chicks always tried to find shade from vegetation or debris in which to escape the heat of the sun. I feel that use of areas with emergent vegetation for nest sites is an important behavioral adaptation of the species. Such areas generally guarantee some cover for the chicks shortly after hatching. It might be a good turn if the sandspurs could be controlled and some species of similar growth form cultivated in its place. However, the situation may not be so simple. The loss of a small percentage of tern chicks to sandspur injuries may be worthwhile if the sandspurs also deter predators (and bare-footed humans) from entering the area. The problem with sandspurs needs close attention before action is taken. If action is taken, the effects of the action on the birds should be closely monitored.

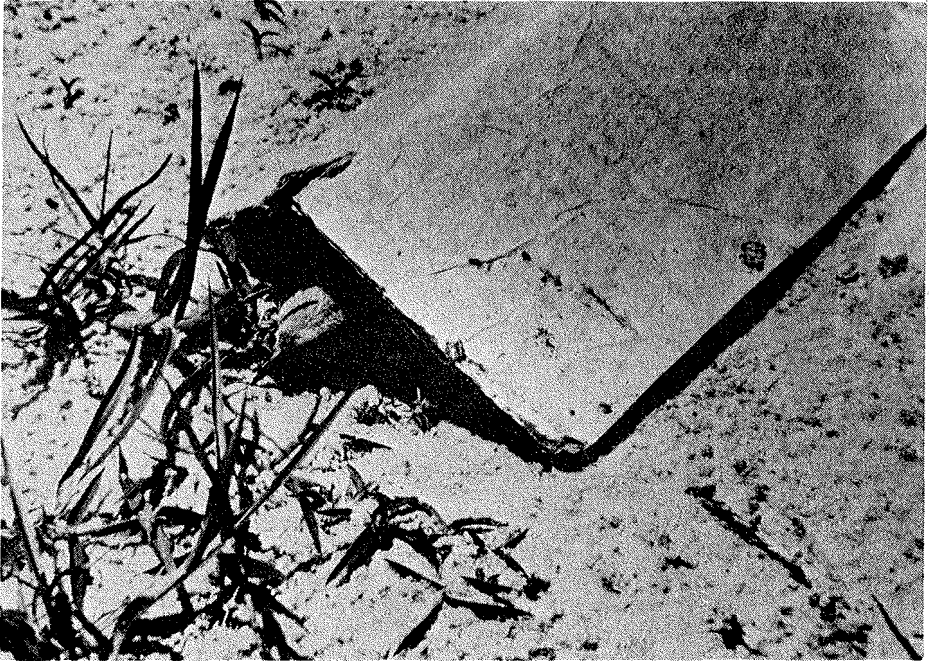


Figure 9. An older Least Tern chick took advantage of the "tent" formed by this piece of cardboard. Any shade provided by plants, driftwood, trash, or trash barrels was used by the birds.

The colony sites might be improved if bits of shell are mixed with the sand in the area and if small boards or something similar (drain tiles?) are placed in the area to provide shelter for chicks (Fig. 9). Neither of these suggestions seems really necessary to the species continued use of the area. Continued management of the vegetation, however, is probably very important.

Finally, it must be remembered that a place to nest is only one of the requirements of a species. An adequate food supply and a healthy environment in many other respects are also needed. The fact that Least Terns are nesting on our beaches is a good sign. Let's keep our Gulf clean and healthy so that they and we can thrive.

Acknowledgments

I thank Judy Toups, Richard Rummel, Wayne Weber, Nancy Jackson, and Bob

and Kathy Esher for helping to collect the data presented here. We all owe a special thanks to the Gulf Coast Audubon Society and the Harrison County Board of Supervisors for the foresight in setting aside the nesting areas for the Least Terns.

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Avocets in Sharkey County

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A flock of 19 American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) was observed October 20, 1976 on a catfish pond near Blanton, Mississippi, Sharkey County, by Robert G. Lilly, John T. Kerr and Henry Bobbs, Jr. This sighting was described by John T. Kerr after the party observing them confirmed identification by the contrasting black and white on the wings and back and the upturned bill. The birds were observed carefully at fairly close range while on the ground and in flight. They returned to the pond after being flushed and making short flights. On the following day the birds had left the area.

A Northern Phalarope in Attala County, Mississippi

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On the morning of 11 September 1976 at 09:00, I found a Northern Phalarope (Lobipes lobatus) on the sewage lagoons near the Natchez Trace Parkway at Kosciusko, Attala County, Mississippi.

The weather was fair and the light was good. This bird was swimming in the lagoon approximately 100 meters from me and I observed it for one hour with 10 x 50 binoculars. I immediately knew the bird was a phalarope because of its general shape and manner of swimming and feeding ("whirley-jig" action). This individual was in winter plumage. Compared to illustrations of the Wilson's Phalarope (Steganopus tricolor), this bird was more contrastingly marked, showed a more prominent "eye patch", and had a gray flecking on the side of the breast in front of the wing. It had a black bill and dark-colored legs (which could be seen when the bird rolled over on its side in the water to preen itself). I caused the bird to fly several times by throwing a rock at it and the white stripe in the wing and broken black-white pattern on the rump were prominent.

Later this same day Ray Weeks and I watched this bird at approximately 80 meters and with a better light angle. This time we viewed the bird through a 20x spotting scope. Then we saw minute detail, even the buffy colored wash on its neck. Our bird could have been the very model for Fuerte's painting (the middle bird) in Birds of America (Pearson, 1936, Doubleday and Co., New York). This bird was at the lagoons for three days, the 11th, 12th, and 13th of September. During these three days Ray Weeks and I observed this bird for a total of about four hours each. The phalarope was quite tame, seeming to pay no attention to us.

The Northern Phalarope is an arctic breeder; in the eastern United States it normally migrates along the Atlantic coast and rarely inland (Palmer, in The Shorebirds of North America, G. D. Stout, ed., The Viking Press, New York, 1967). This species was first reported in Louisiana in 1966 (Lowery, Louisiana Birds, Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1974). There are several records of the Northern Phalarope in Alabama, including some inland records (Imhof, Alabama Birds, University of Alabama Press, University, 1976). To our knowledge our record represents the first sighting of the species in Mississippi.

Northern Phalarope in Hattiesburg, Mississippi

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On 21 September 1976 I observed a Northern Phalarope (Lobipes lobatus) swimming around and pecking at the surface of the water in a sewage pond in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The bird was studied leisurely by me and my wife for about a half hour. I would estimate that the bird was about 50 feet away. We were using a 20x telescope and 7 x 50 binoculars. The light conditions were absolutely ideal. The afternoon sun was shining over our shoulders; the sky was clear. I immediately recognized the bird as a phalarope and soon decided that it was not a Wilson's (Steganopus tricolor). (I have seen Wilson's Phalaropes on four occasions.) The bill of this bird was not much longer than the head. This is perhaps only half the length of a Wilson's. The bill was black and very thin. The bird was immaculately white on the face and throat. A very conspicuous phalarope mark went through the eye. It was thicker and much blacker than the mark through the eye in Wilson's Phalaropes that I have seen. The most striking feature of the bird to me was the black (not gray) thick streak that went up the back of the neck and over the top of the head. The forehead of the bird was pure white. Also a pure white area separated the eye mark from the streak up and over the back of the head. The back did not look like the back of a Wilson's at all. On first impression it looked black (not gray) and speckled with white patches. As I watched the bird I realized that the white patches formed streaks that went all the way down the back of the bird. This, it would seem, rules out the Red Phalarope (Phalaropus fulicarius). Also I could see from swimming movements and preening that the legs were quite dark. And I also saw it flap its wings to reveal a wing stripe. The sides of the bird were a little smudged with a gray color but the underparts were pure white. The bird was seen a while later swimming so far out in the middle of the pond that it could be recognized as not much more than a dot with binoculars and as "a phalarope of some kind" with the telescope.

The appearance of this bird was preceded by the passage of a cold front. The bird could not be found on the following day.

Annual Meeting

Plan now to attend the spring meeting of the MOS which will be held on the campus at Mississippi State University from 18-21 May 1977. This special meeting will be in conjunction with the 58th annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society. For more information please contact Jerry Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762.

The Eastern Phoebe as a Summer Resident in Mississippi

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The Eastern Phoebe (Sayornis phoebe), as well as several other species, has been extending its summer range southward. We have checked on these range expansions as time allows. In the last 40 years we have gone under many bridges to check for Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica) and phoebe nests - possibly up to 300 occasions in Mississippi, 180 in West Tennessee and 120 in eastern and southern Arkansas. Since the Barn Swallow has outstripped the phoebe in this southward extension and its forward edge has been too distant for me to check readily, such field work has been minimal for the last decade or so. Therefore, many of the data presented are for earlier seasons. Also, after going under a certain bridge several seasons with positive results, we later checked the presence of a phoebe and did not go under that bridge.

When we mentioned southward extension, we actually seem to have, here on the eastern portion of the immediate Mississippi River plain, local movements from the northeast to southwest. We found the first nest of the Barn Swallow in Shelby County (Memphis), Tennessee, on 25 June 1936, and the first phoebe nest (coincidentally under the same bridge) on 3 May 1947. The first Barn Swallow nest reported for Mississippi (Warriner, Migrant 9:64, 1938) was in a dairy barn near Corinth, 25 May 1938; disregarding the Ship Island population discovered by McIlhenny (Auk 50:439 and 52:188) about 1 July 1933. The first phoebe nest reported in Mississippi was found by Andrew A. Allison on 27 April 1904, just inside a former "silica mine", southeast of Eastport, in Tishomingo County.

In the early 1930's we looked in spring and early summer for the phoebes in the narrow branch valleys feeding into the Tennessee River, north of luka. We found occasional rock ledges, but no nests. Pickwick Lake covered these outcroppings later. Northeast Mississippi Boy Scouts told me of a phoebe nest at Tishomingo State Park in 1937. On 3 July 1938 we found this nest and one of the year under a bluff rock near the picnic grounds, but we saw no phoebes. Enroute home we detoured towards Eastport and found the home where Allison spent a month in the spring of 1904 (Auk 24:12-25, 1907, referred to in Migrant 14:70-72, 1943). Mr. Walter Lee Goodman led us to the "old chalk" mine and on 4 July 1938 we found two adult phoebes and a nest with 4 young. On 19 May 1940 and 17 May 1947 we found only evidence of past nesting. We returned to Tishomingo State Park in June 1939 for a week (Migrant 10:50-56, 1939) and found 8 nesting sites on rock; these were on both sides of the Bear Creek escarpment. Four had nests of the season and 4 had remnants of older nests. On many subsequent trips to this park we found nests, old or in use, on the 1937-38 site and under a wood bridge over Gardner branch. Elsewhere in Tishomingo County we located 6 sites under U.S. Highway 72 bridges on 23 June 1956. We found phoebes at the sites in later years.

The first site we found phoebes outside of Tishomingo County was in Benton County, an area worked more by us than any other Mississippi County

except DeSoto. At the Wolf River on Miss. 7, we saw a phoebe at the north bridge, and a phoebe and nest with 4 eggs under the south bridge on 27 April 1941. On 20 April 1947 it appeared that there were at least three pairs of phoebes nesting under the bridges there. We have noted the species there in subsequent years. Other trips, but especially in 1955 and 1956, revealed at least 15 other nesting sites at slightly better than 50% of the bridges we went under in Benton County.

The following notes summarize our observations of phoebes in other Mississippi counties:

Marshall County: Only a few bridges have been checked. The Memphis Chapter of the T.O.S. has a late March fieldtrip each year to Wall Doxey (formerly Spring Lake) State Park, 7 miles south of Holly Springs. Since 26 March 1950, one or more phoebes have been seen each year at a nest site or sites, with possibly transient phoebes elsewhere around the lake. Nests have generally been under the porch of the lodge.

Lafayette County: 25 March 1956, a double layer nest was found under the Tallahatchie bridge, Miss. 7. Apparently this site was used by phoebes as early as 1954. On 20 May 1956 we found a phoebe at second bridge on Miss. 30 east of Oxford, but none at 4 other bridges (Miss. 7 north). On 12 June 1960 we saw a phoebe at Yocona River bridge on Miss. 7. Under the center span of this bridge we found a double phoebe nest and 7 partially completed nests.

Yalobusha County: We had mostly negative observations along Miss. 7 on 20 May 1956 and 17 June 1957, but found two nests on the first date north of Water Valley.

Union County: Undoubtedly the phoebe nests here, but we rarely looked for it. On 20 May 1956 a phoebe was seen near Etta, but no nest was found under the bridge (part inaccessible).

Tippah County: On 23 June 1956 we found no phoebes on Miss. 15, but a series of bridges (two bottoms) on U.S. 72 east of Walnut yielded 5 nests (young in one) and an old nest of the season. We found single nests on Miss. 4, 31 May 1959, and on Miss. 30, 11 June 1961.

Alcorn County: On 4 March 1956 we found 2 nests under a bridge on U.S. 45. On 23 June 1956 we found a nest with young on Miss. 2 at Tusculumbia Creek; there were no phoebes at Kossuth. On 31 May 1959, just east of Rienzi, we located two nests with two half-nests adjacent.

Prentiss County: On 11 June 1961 we observed a phoebe at a West Miss. 30 bridge.

Itawamba County: On 17 May 1959 along Miss. 23 at Bull Mountain Creek there were phoebe nests under 4 of 5 bridges including a 2 and a 3-high stacked nest. Along the same highway near Red Bay we saw a phoebe sitting on a nest near another nest with dead young. A second bridge had no nests, but the third bridge in that series had a phoebe in view, though it was not

possible to look for a nest. On the same day we saw a phoebe on U.S. 78, east of Miss. 25.

Monroe County: On 7 July 1951 we saw a phoebe west of Aberdeen on Miss. 8

Chickasaw County: On several trips we checked all bridges on Miss. 15 from Pontotoc to Houston without much luck. This seemed the best route for checking southward expansion. About June, 1954, we found a phoebe and a nest with eggs under a bridge inside the north section of Houston. North of Houston on 26 June 1956 we found a nest with young under the south bridge at Houlika Creek. Fifteen other bridges, chiefly on Miss. 8 and north on U.S. 45 alternate (formerly Miss. 45W), were checked but no nests were found; we did see two phoebes at one site. On 24 May 1964 there was a phoebe nest in a concrete box culvert on the Natchez Trace, a mile south of Miss. 389 and eight miles south of Houston. At other times we have checked southward on the Natchez Trace Parkway without further luck. This includes a few culverts and bridges checked on 27 May and 15 June 1976 from Kosciusko to near Houston.

Kemper County: On 22 May 1966 we found a phoebe and a nest, of about three years use, in a Miss. 397 culvert, .4 mile south of Miss. 21, near Preston. This is about 146 miles south of the Tennessee line. Unfortunately, the first Houston nest was on my mind as being southernmost and I forgot this site and failed to check it after ending our Scooba breeding bird count, two miles south of Preston, 1972-1976. Incidentally, no phoebes were seen on these counts.

Panola County: On the Cockrum breeding bird count, 8 June 1975, Ernest Restivo found a phoebe just inside the county and northeast of Sardis.

DeSoto County: While the Barn Swallow extended its summer range down through the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta, the phoebe apparently has avoided it. The bluff which borders the Delta on the east passes between Eudora and Banks. There in the Chickasaw Bluff Lakes subdivision two phoebes, one on a nest, were seen 18 April 1975 by Lula Coffey, Helen Dinkelspiel, and Alice Smith. The nest was on a floor joist; because of a ravine the first floor was very high and the space underneath open. On 29 March 1964 we saw a phoebe at the Coldwater River bridge on U.S. 78.

Jerome A. Jackson, David Werschkul, Robert Howell, and Tom Darden (Mississippi Kite 6:6, 1976) report on recent nests and sites, two in Oktibbeha County and eight in Chickasaw County.

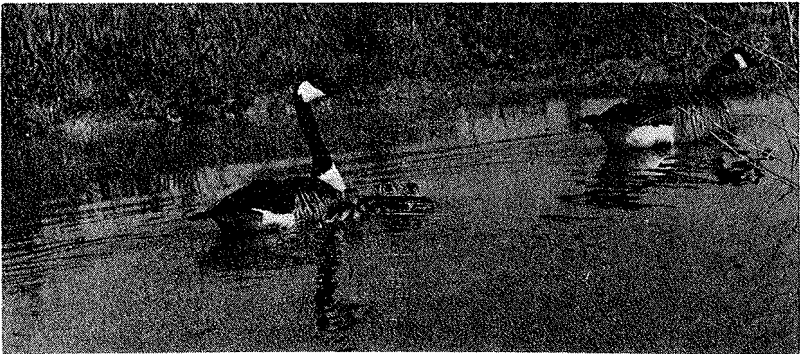
In addition to culverts and bridges, picnic pavilions and buildings (under the eaves) should be checked for nests. A number of our nests were on steel beams of bridges and many others were under wood bridges. Many of the latter bridges have probably been replaced in recent years. On 26 March 1961 at Wall Doxey we found 2 recent phoebe nests, each atop the large outer globe of a ceiling electric light; one on the lodge porch, the other at a nearby shed. Often a phoebe builds a second or a third nest

atop the first. Occasionally two or more nests may be built side by side but usually only one is completed. In May 1956 R. D. Smith found a nest built on each side of an old nest, one with 2 eggs and one with 3 eggs. (In 1930 under a R.R. bridge near Mammoth Springs, Arkansas, I found 13 nests side by side on a steel beam, ranging in size from a start to two completed nests.)

Where possible we did not disturb a bird on a nest. Accessible nests were examined by using a mirror. Besides the example above, nests with eggs were: Benton County - 20 April 1947: 5; 27 April 1941: 4; (same site as the first); 31 May 1959 and 31 May 1969 (different areas): 4; 9 June 1959: 4 and another with 2 eggs plus 2 young; 19 June 1955: 2, 3, and 3 respectively. At Tishomingo State Park, 18 May 1947, we found a small "chicken snake" in the nest (under an overhanging rock) with 5 eggs inside the snake.

Young found in nests were as follows: Benton County - 19 June 1955, 2 freshly dead (about 8 days old). At the Tishomingo tunnel Allison reported 4 young a few days old, 27 April 1904; ours there 4 July 1938, a week old. At the state park, 16 June 1939, 2 eggs and 2 young just out. On 23 June 1956; 4 young ready to fly, Tippah County; the same, Alcorn County; three nests in Tishomingo County had: young ready to leave, young half-grown, and one left, about half-grown. On 26 June 1956, Chickasaw County, an adult was feeding young in the nest. I would judge that the species normally has two broods a year.

Lula C. Coffey was with me on most of the fieldtrips and quite a number of other birders in turn on some of the trips. I offer thanks to them and especially to R. Demett Smith, Jr. who also made many trips alone in the Ashland area of Benton County and gave me his field cards and notes.



Giant Canada Geese, Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, April 1971.
(photo by Burton S. Webster)

Reviews

Prairie Birds in Color. By Doug Gilroy. Western Producer Prairie Books, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, 1976: x + 111 pp., 154 color photographs. \$9.95 (softcover), \$14.95 (hardcover).

This book is basically a collection of color photographs of 92 species of prairie birds, with a brief accompanying text. The author, Doug Gilroy, farmed for 40 years near Regina, Saskatchewan, and since 1954 has written a nature column for the "Western Producer", a weekly western Canadian farmers' newspaper. "Prairie Birds in Color" is an expansion of an earlier book, "An Album of Prairie Birds", published in 1967.

I have a few minor criticisms of the book. One is the use of names (e.g. Upland Plover, Sparrow Hawk, Oregon Junco) made obsolete by the 32nd supplement to the A.O.U. Check-list. Unfortunately, many people will be unaware of these changes until new editions of the major field guides are published. The book also contains a few spelling errors in Latin names (e.g. Cicus for Circus and sparvertius for sparverius).

Most of the photographs are good, and a few are excellent. My favorites include the newly-hatched coot (p. 18), Long-eared Owl fledglings (p. 44), Pine Grosbeak (p. 89), and young Loggerhead Shrikes (p. 93). The selection of species is good; Gilroy seems especially fond of waterfowl (27 photos) and owls (13 photos), but no major group of birds is slighted except for the hard-to-photograph warblers, represented only by the Yellow Warbler. The sequence of species follows no obvious pattern, although it vaguely resembles the Wetmore sequence (starting with White Pelican and ending with Vesper Sparrow); yet, e.g., Veery is followed by Ring-billed Gull. The text accompanying the photographs is brief but generally informative, often including details on photographic techniques.

In conclusion, this is an attractive and pleasing book of bird photographs, whose deficiencies are relatively minor. The price seems a little high, but those who enjoy good bird photography will probably find it a worthwhile purchase.--W. C. Weber, Box Z, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Roger Tory Peterson's Dozen Birding Hot Spots. By George H. Harrison. Simon and Schuster, New York, 1976: 288 pp., numerous black-and-white photographs, 8 pages of color photographs, several maps. \$9.95.

Roger Tory Peterson is perhaps the best known personality among American birdwatchers; his field guides have been largely responsible for the popularity of "birding" today. Without a doubt Roger has an audience all over North America (and probably the world) that is interested in where he thinks the best places to find birds are. George Harrison asked Roger to list the dozen places in North America that he favored most for birding; then George and his wife Kit spent a year visiting those places.

They tried to hit each hot spot when it was "hottest" for birding. This book is a narrative of their year's experiences. The twelve hot spots include the Everglades; three National Wildlife Refuges in southern Texas; the Platte River in Nebraska; southeastern Arizona; Point Pelee, Ontario; Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Utah; the coast of Maine; the Gaspé Peninsula and Bonaventure Island, Quebec; Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania; Cape May, New Jersey; Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, Wisconsin; and Tule Lake, Klamath Basin, and Malheur National Wildlife Refuges in California and Oregon. After reading the book, I still feel that Dauphin Island, Alabama deserves a place among the top twelve, but, as Roger states in the introduction, these twelve are his choices. Some of the dozen were selected because of the diversity and exotic nature of the birds found there (Everglades, south Texas), others for the extreme concentrations of certain species (Platte River, Horicon National Wildlife Refuge). All are certainly places that enthusiastic birders would want to visit. Kit Harrison's "Visitor Tips" at the end of each chapter will be of great help to those who get to make these treks. These tips include such information as the best time to schedule a visit; what clothing to take along; where camping, motels, and restaurants can be found; what reservations are needed and how to make them; and where the nearest restrooms, telephones, gasoline, groceries, hospitals, and airports are to be found. This book is well-written and generally well-illustrated. I recommend it as good reading for the itinerant birder. J. A. Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Crows of the World. By Derek Goodwin. Comstock Publishing Associates, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York, 1976: 354 pp., numerous range maps and line drawings, three color plates by Robert Gillmor. \$28.50

The family Corvidae, which includes our own crows and jays, includes about 116 species and has representatives on each continent. In this volume Goodwin attempts to summarize our knowledge of the Corvidae. The first part of the book includes generalized descriptions of "crow" behavior and ecology; the second, and largest, portion of the book is composed of "species accounts". Each account includes a brief description of the species, its distribution and habitat preferences, field characters, feeding and general habits, nest and eggs, voice, displays and social behavior, and a few references. For most species accounts there is also a line drawing of the species and a generalized range map. Three color plates which illustrate some of the diversity in the family are nice, but not spectacular. I had difficulty deciding on what audience the author was trying to reach with this book. The presentation of material certainly wouldn't make interesting reading to most amateurs, the illustrations are neither numerous enough nor of sufficient quality to make this a good "coffee table" book, and the depth of coverage makes it of little more than general use to the professional. I found the writing very "dry" and noticed a number of typographical errors - including

misspelling of the names of two of the ornithologists listed in the acknowledgments as persons to whom the author is "particularly indebted". There is no complete bibliography at the end of the book and the only indices are to species names. Literature citations at the end of chapters and species accounts are often incomplete. In short, I would recommend this book only for large libraries and persons with a special interest in the family Corvidae. In my opinion this book is simply too expensive for what it is to warrant recommendation to a wider audience. J. A. Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Wintering of Bald Eagles in the Lower 48 States. By Donald A. Spencer. National Agricultural Chemical Association, 1155 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, 1976: 170 pp., no price given (free?).

This small book is a compilation of distribution records and anecdotal comments concerning wintering Bald Eagles. Data are from previously published sources such as *American Birds*, from state and federal wildlife agency files, and from personal communication with refuge and park personnel. While there is only brief interpretation of data, and much of the information is anecdotal, three clear patterns emerge: (1) relatively few Bald Eagles winter east of the Mississippi; (2) reservoirs kept from freezing as a result of warm effluents are used extensively as wintering sites by Bald Eagles; (3) carrion, including large animals such as deer and sheep, is important in the diet of wintering eagles.

The important information in this book could have easily been summarized in an article suitable for publication in one of the ornithological journals and perhaps should have been. Repetition of information (e.g., all of the data in the table on page 166 are included in the table on page 52), and the extensive quoting of observers rather than trying to summarize, greatly increases the length of the book. Nevertheless, anyone with an interest in eagles will find some worthwhile reading in "Wintering of the Bald Eagle in the Lower 48 States".--J. A. Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

The Bluebird. By Lawrence Zeleny. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana, 1976: 170 pp. \$7.95.

Here is a book that belongs in every bird-lovers library. Lawrence Zeleny has summarized the scientific literature and over 50 years of personal experience with bluebirds in this most readable, most useful little book. While Zeleny's own experience has been primarily with the Eastern Bluebird, his book deals with the Western and Mountain bluebirds as well. This book provides a thorough account of the ecology of

bluebirds, discusses their relationship to man, the reasons for their decline, and how man can tip the odds in favor of the bluebird's future success. Design and construction, location, and maintenance of bluebird houses are discussed in detail. So are the enemies of bluebirds and ways with which to cope with them. A very interesting chapter deals with other species of hole-nesting birds that may use bluebird houses. The final chapter in the book is a personal account of three orphaned bluebirds which they raised and which later brought their nestlings to the Zelenys. While not so scientific in its presentation, this chapter provides a fitting summary of bluebird breeding biology and man's role in their survival. In text references and an extensive bibliography add to this book's usefulness. Four pages of color photographs are generally well-reproduced. Unfortunately what appears to be a male Eastern Bluebird in figure 2 is identified as a female, and the sexes of the Mountain Bluebirds (figures 4 and 5) are mislabeled. I heartily recommend this book to anyone with an interest in birds. As a further incentive to add this fine volume to your library, it is worth noting that all proceeds from the sale of the book will go to further the work of the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States.--J. A. Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, MS 39762

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HELP!

The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation, a non-profit civic improvement and lyceum corporation was organized July 18, 1974, to provide assistance to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in furtherance of its basic purpose of increasing and disseminating knowledge of the natural sciences, particularly as they pertain to Mississippi's natural resources and their conservation. The museum is a division of the Mississippi Game and Fish Commission and it provides the museum's basic support funds. However, many important areas cannot be supported through these sources. The Foundation is expected to play a significant role in the future growth and development of the museum by providing some of the extras that make for greatness.

The Foundation is currently involved in a membership drive. You have an opportunity to help by joining the Foundation now. Memberships are: individual - \$5.00, contributing - \$25.00, organizational - \$50.00 and up, patron - \$100.00 through \$999.00, and life \$1,000.00. Make your contribution payable to the MMNS Foundation and mail to Box 1703, Jackson, Mississippi 39205. Your participation is encouraged.

Sex Reversal of Mississippi Birds

Sorry - this isn't what you thought! Owing to an unfortunate error, the sex was given incorrectly for several bird sightings in the "Birds Around the State" section in the last issue (Mississippi Kite 6(1):14-19). These errors, together with a few miscellaneous errors and omissions from the list, are corrected below. In the future, we will try to proofread this section more carefully!

- COMMON LOON -- 1, 24-25 May, Horn I., WCW
 MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD -- 23 May-28 June, Horn I. (max. 16 on 24 May),
 WCW
 LEAST BITTERN -- 1 male, 19 June, Noxubee NWR, WCW
 WHITE IBIS -- nesting, 21 May, Warren Co., NH, WG, BQ
 CANADA GOOSE -- first young seen, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW
 COMMON GOLDENEYE -- 1 male, 24 Jan., L. Washington, WCW, JJ, EA
 RED-BREASTED MERGANSER -- 1 male, 2 females, 24 Jan., L. Washington,
 WCW, JJ, EA
 WILD TURKEY -- 1 male, 2 females, 16 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH
 SNOWY PLOVER -- 2, 28 June, Horn I., WCW, JJ, RR
 RUDDY TURNSTONE -- 2, 28 May, Ship I., WCW
 WHIP-POOR-WILL -- 2 Apr., 7 Apr., 19 Apr., Shaw, NH
 RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD -- 2 females, 14 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH
 VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- 2 males, 24 Jan., L. Jackson, EA, JJ (see
 Alexander, Mississippi Kite 6(1):2-4)
 PURPLE MARTIN -- 2 males, 20 Feb., Scooba, RW
 CAROLINA CHICKADEE -- 4 fledglings with parents, 1 May, Noxubee NWR, JJ
 CAROLINA WREN -- 4 young just out of nest, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW
 BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 1 nest-building, 19 May, Shaw, NH
 MAGNOLIA WARBLER -- 1 female, 25 May, Horn I., WCW
 BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER -- 1 female, 24 May, Horn I., WCW
 BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER -- 2 males, 24 May, Horn I., WCW; 1 female, 26 May,
 Horn I., WCW
 BAY-BREASTED WARBLER -- 3 (1 male, 2 females), 25 May, Horn I., WCW
 COMMON YELLOWTHROAT -- 1 female, 21 Jan., Kosciusko, JAS
 BOBOLINK -- 1 male, 3 May, Starkville airport, JJ; 8 females 12 May,
 Ship I., WCW
 YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD -- 1 female, 14 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH
 CARDINAL -- 1 male, 17 Mar., Horn I., WCW, WDB (first record for island)
 INDIGO BUNTING -- 1 female, 28 May, Horn I., WCW
 BACHMAN'S SPARROW -- 5 males, 13 June, Fontainebleau BBS route, WCW
 SONG SPARROW -- 29 Apr., Washington Co., E & GA

Birds Around the State

Compiled by Jerome A. Jackson and Wayne C. Weber

The following is a summary of bird sightings in Mississippi and immediately adjacent areas by MOS members and friends. Most records are from the time period of 1 July through 30 November 1976. These records include arrival and departure dates as well as records of the occurrences of unusual species in the state. Keys to places and observers follow the list.

- COMMON LOON -- 1, 2 July - 7 July (2 on 2 July, 6 July) Horn I., WCW; 2, 6 Nov., Hattiesburg, LG; 1, 17 Nov., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW; 25 Nov., L. Washington, E & GA.
- HORNED GREBE -- 1, 31 Aug., Hattiesburg (very early, still partially in breeding plumage), LG.
- EARED GREBE -- 2, 10 Sept., Hattiesburg, LG; 6, 23 Oct. through November, Hattiesburg, LG.
- PIED-BILLED GREBE -- 2 juvenile, 18 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 17 Aug., Nr. Clermont Hbr., WCW, JT, LG; 30 Aug., Attala Co., JAS; 3, 1 Sept., Archer I., Ark., NH.
- WHITE PELICAN -- 45, 23 Oct., Gulfport, LG.
- BROWN PELICAN -- 1, 6 July, Horn I., WCW.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- 3, 16 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 1, 13 Nov., L. Mary Crawford, Monticello, CB.
- ANHINGA -- 1, 10 Sept., 13 Sept., Ansley, J & JT, AB, JI; 4, 27 Nov., L. Washington, E & GA.
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD -- 1 July - 2 Aug., Horn I., (Maximum 15 on 7 July) WCW; 2, 16 Aug., Bellefontaine Pt., WCW.
- CATTLE EGRET -- 60, 17 Aug., Nr. Ansley, WCW, JT, LG.
- REDDISH EGRET -- 4 July through 4 August, Horn I., (maximum 2 on 1 and 2 Aug.) WCW; 1, 1 Sept., Waveland, JT, FM, JI; 1, 4 Sept., 23 Oct., Waveland, LG; 1, 20 Nov., Buccaneer St. Pk., MOS members; 1, 24 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.
- GREAT EGRET -- 100, 20 Aug., Yazoo NWR, E & GA; 32, 1 Sept., Huntington Pt., NH; 23, 17 Nov., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW.
- LOUISIANA HERON -- 1, 17 Oct., Hattiesburg (late), LG.
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON -- 3 (2 adult, 1 immature), 17 Aug., Nr. Clermont Hbr., WCW, JT, LG; 1 (adult), 23 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW
- LEAST BITTERN -- 2 (males calling), 7 July, Horn I., WCW; 1, 23 Oct., Ansley, LG.
- AMERICAN BITTERN -- 2, 23 Oct., Lyman, LG; 1, 20 Nov., Nr. Lakeshore, MOS members.
- WOOD STORK -- 72, 18 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 100, 20 Aug., Yazoo NWR, E & GA; 100, 31 Aug., Noxubee NWR, JAS, EWP; 5 or 10, 11 Oct., Noxubee NWR, JAJ.
- GLOSSY IBIS -- 1, 30 Aug., Waveland, J & JT.
- WHITE IBIS -- 3 (immature), 16 July, 8 mi. N. Monticello, CB; 5 (immature), 18 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1 (immature), 23 July, 8 mi. N. Monticello, CB; 16, 17 Aug., Heron Bay Rd., WCW, JT, LG; 10 (immature), 20 Aug., Yazoo NWR, E & GA; 14 (1 adult, 13 immature), 31 Aug., Noxubee NWR, JAS, EWP; 20 Sept., Canton (last seen), LG; 11, (2 adult, 9 immature)

THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

- 3 Oct, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 23 Oct., Ansley (last seen), LG.
- SNOW GOOSE -- 3, 16 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 4 (2 white, 2 blue), 20 Nov., Buccaneer St. Pk., WCW, WJW, JT; 52 (nearly all blue), 24 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.
- MALLARD -- 42, 1 Sept., Huntington Pt., NH; 3, 5 Sept., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 6, 10 Sept., Hattiesburg, LG; 400, 31 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- BLACK DUCK -- 12, 31 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- MOTTLED DUCK -- 2, 17 Aug., Buccaneer St. Pk., WCW, JT, LG; 1, 17 Aug., Nr. Clermont Hbr., WCW, JT, LG.
- GADWALL -- 1, summered at Hattiesburg, LG.; 50, 31 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- PINTAIL -- 12, 1 Sept., Huntington Pt., NH; 1, 5 Sept., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 10 Sept., Hattiesburg, LG; 250, 31 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL -- 2, 17 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG.
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL -- 7, 20 Aug., Hattiesburg, LG; 10, 20 Aug., Yazoo NWR, E & GA; 7, 31 Aug., Noxubee NWR, JAS, EWP; 7 Sept., (arrival) Attala Co., JAS.
- AMERICAN WIGEON -- 500, 31 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- NORTHERN SHOVELER -- 1, 5 Sept., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 10, 10 Sept., Hattiesburg, LG.
- WOOD DUCK -- 25, 25 Aug., Archer I., Ark., NH.
- REDHEAD -- 5, 28 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 7 (4 males, 3 females), 23 Nov., Monticello sewage lagoons, CB; 1 male, 23-24 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.
- RING-NECKED DUCK -- 9, 16 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 600, 31 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- CANVASBACK -- 2, 31 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1 female, 23 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.
- LESSER SCAUP -- 6, 16 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 30, 31 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE -- 2, 8 Nov., Hattiesburg (early), LG; 1 female, 20 Nov., Nr. Lakeshore, MOS members; 1 female, 23 & 24 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.
- BUFFLEHEAD -- 9, 8 Nov., Hattiesburg, LG; 6, 17 Nov., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW.
- RUDDY DUCK -- 8 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 25, 31 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 6 Nov., Hattiesburg, LG; 4 (2 males, 2 females), 16 Nov., Monticello sewage lagoons, CB.
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER -- 7, 6 Nov., Hattiesburg, LG; 4 (1 male, 3 females or juveniles), 17 Nov., Oktibbeha Co. L.
- TURKEY VULTURE -- 70, 23 Oct., Noxubee NWR, JAJ.
- BLACK VULTURE -- 90, 22 Aug., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 96, 23 Oct., Noxubee NWR, JAJ.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE -- 24 July, Columbus, JAJ; 25, 4 Aug., Yazoo NWR, E & GA; 1, 25 Aug., Durant, JAS; 2 ad., 1 Sept., Archer I., Ark., NH; 2, Sept. (departure), Washington Co., E. & GA; 4 Sept., Wiggins, LG.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK -- 2, 17 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 1, 25 Nov. and 27 Nov., Yazoo NWR; E & GA.
- COOPER'S HAWK -- 1, 1 Sept., Archer I., Ark., NH
- RED-TAILED HAWK -- 1 ad., 12 July, near Latimer, WCW; 20 Sept. (arrival), Washington Co., E. & GA.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK -- 1, 16 July, D'Iberville, WCW; 10, 3 Aug., Leroy Percy St. Pk., E & GA.
- MARSH HAWK -- 1, 7 Aug., Huntington Pt., NH; 21 Sept., Hattiesburg, LG; 1 female, 23 Sept., Attala Co., JAS.
- OSPREY -- 1, 16 Aug., Bellefontaine Pt., WCW; 2, 25 Sept., Oktibbeha Co. L., CBF, 1, 23 Oct., Noxubee NWR, JAJ; 2, 23 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.

- AMERICAN KESTREL -- 3 Aug. (arrival), Washington Co., E & GA.
 WILD TURKEY -- 8, 9 Aug, near Latimer, WCW; 2 females, 15 young, 21 Aug., Archer I., Ark., NH.
 SANDHILL CRANE -- 1, 15 Aug., near Larue, WCW.
 CLAPPER RAIL -- 1 large chick with ads., 3 Aug., Horn I., WCW.
 VIRGINIA RAIL -- 1, 5 Sept., Noxubee NWR, WCW, WJW, BS; 21 Sept., Hattiesburg, LG.
 PURPLE GALLINULE -- 23 Oct., Lyman, LG.
 COMMON GALLINULE -- 2 July - 4 Aug., (1 Juv. on 4 Aug.) Horn I., WCW; 2 juv., 17 Aug., Nr. Clermont Hbr., WCW, JT, LG.
 AMERICAN COOT -- 6, summered at Hattiesburg, LG; 23 Sept.(arrival), Attala Co., JAS; 1500-2000, 23 Oct., Noxubee NWR, JAJ.
 SEMIPALMATED PLOVER -- 1-3 Aug., Horn I., (max 2 on 2 and 3 Aug.), WCW; 1, 22 Aug., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 PIPING PLOVER -- 1-3 Aug., Horn I., (max. 13 on 3 Aug.), WCW; 3, Aug. 17, Gulfport, WCW, JT, LG; 1, 22 Aug., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 5, 23 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.
 SNOWY PLOVER -- 1 July - 4 Aug., (max. 4 on 2 July), Horn I., WCW; 2, 23 and 24 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.
 WILSON'S PLOVER -- 1 July - 3 Aug., Horn I., (max. 4 on 1 July, 3 Aug.) WCW.
 KILLDEER -- 200, 22 Aug., Noxubee NWR, WCW; flocks of 10 to 15, 1 Sept., Huntington Pt., NH; many flocks, 14 Nov., Bolivar Co., NH.
 AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER -- 23 Oct., Gulfport (broken leg), LG.
 BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER -- 1 July - 4 Aug., Horn I., (max. 6 on 1 and 3 Aug), WCW; 1 in breeding plumage, 11 Aug., Waveland, J & JT.
 RUDDY TURNSTONE -- 5, 17 Aug., Gulfport, WCW, JT, LG.
 WOODCOCK -- 17 Oct. (arrival), Washington Co., E & GA.
 COMMON SNIPE -- 14, 3 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 8 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 17 Oct. (arrival), Washington Co., E & GA; 60, 17 Nov., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW.
 UPLAND SANDPIPER -- 2, 17 Aug., Gulfport, WCW, JT, LG.
 SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- 1, 30 July, Horn I., WCW; 1, 29 Sept., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 SOLITARY SANDPIPER -- 4 to 12, August, Yazoo NWR, E & GA; 2, 17 Aug., Buccaneer St. Pk., WCW, JT, LG; 1, 5 Sept., Noxubee NWR, WCW, WJW, BS.
 GREATER YELLOWLEGS -- 1, 2-7 July, Horn I., WCW; 1, 18 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 4, 30 Aug., Waveland, J & JT; 9, 31 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 LESSER YELLOWLEGS -- 1, 18 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 1 Aug., Waveland, JT; 1, 1, 4 Aug., Horn I., WCW; 12, 22 Aug., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 PECTORAL SANDPIPER -- 2, 18 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 4 Aug., Horn I., WCW; 4 Aug., Yazoo NWR, E & GA; 3, 17 Aug., Buccaneer St. Pk., WCW, JT, LG; 300, 22 Aug., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 35, 3 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 2, 20 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 1, 17 Nov., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW.
 LEAST SANDPIPER -- 1, 6 July, Horn I., WCW; 15, 18 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW; many, 1 Sept., Huntington Pt., Archer I., NH; 30, 5 Sept., Noxubee NWR, WCW, WJW, BS; 17 Oct. to 25 Nov., (400 on 7 Nov.), Greenville treatment plant, E & GA; 45, 17 Nov., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW.
 DUNLIN -- 17 Aug., Waveland, LG; 1, 17 Nov., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW; 350, 20 Nov., Buccaneer St. Pk. & vicinity, MOS members.
 SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER -- 1, 1 July, Horn I., WCW; 3, 3 Aug., Horn I., WCW.

- DOWITCHER SP. -- 7, 1 Aug., Waveland, JT; 3, 31 Aug., Noxubee NWR, JAS, EWP.
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER -- 5, 4 Aug., Horn I., WCW; 5, 31 Aug., Noxubee NWR, JAS, EWP.
- WESTERN SANDPIPER -- 2, 4 Aug., Horn I., WCW; 4, 17 Aug., Buccaneer St. Pk., WCW, JT, LG.
- MARbled GODWIT -- 1, 24 Aug., Waveland, J & JT.
- SANDERLING -- 10, 2 July, Horn I., WCW; 1-4 Aug., Horn I., (max. 15 on 1 Aug.), WCW; 200, 17 Aug., Buccaneer St. Pk., WCW, JT, LG; 50, 23-24 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.
- AMERICAN AVOCET -- 1, 24 Aug., Bay St. Louis, J & JT; 2, 1 Sept., Waveland (1), Buccaneer St. Pk. (1), JT, FM, JL; 4 Sept., Buccaneer St. Pk. LG
- NORTHERN PHALAROPE -- 1, 11-13 Sept., Kosciusko, JAS, RW; 1, 21 Sept., Hattiesburg, LG (First state records -- see details, this issue).
- HERRING GULL -- 16 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG.
- RING-BILLED GULL -- 16 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG.
- LAUGHING GULL -- 300, 17 Aug., Buccaneer St. Pk., WCW, JT, LG.
- GULL-BILLED TERN -- 2, 1-2 July, Horn I., WCW; 1, 31 July, (birds nesting in June), Spoil I., Horn I. Pass, WCW, JS; chick begging from ad., 17 Aug., Nr. Clermont Hbr., WCW, JT, LG; 1, 4 Aug., Horn I., WCW.
- FORSTER'S TERN -- 8 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 50, 20 Nov., Clermont Harbor, MOS members.
- LEAST TERN -- 1, 16 July, Hattiesburg, LG
- ROYAL TERN -- 75 nests, 1 July, Spoil I., Horn I. Pass, JWP; 150, 17 Aug., Buccaneer St. Pk., WCW, JT, LG.
- SANDWICH TERN -- 1 July - 4 Aug., Horn I., (max. 60 on 1 July), WCW; 411 nests, 1 July, Spoil I., Horn I. Pass, JWP; 500 ad., 50+ young, 31 July, Spoil I., Horn I. Pass, WCW, JS.
- CASPIAN TERN -- 1, 6 July, 31 July, Horn I., WCW; 1, 31 July, (birds nesting in June), Spoil I., Horn I. Pass, WCW, JS; 10 Sept., Hattiesburg, LG; 10, 20 Nov., Clermont Harbor, MOS members.
- BLACK TERN -- 9, 16 July, Hattiesburg, LG; 1 ad., 18 July, Loakfoma L., WCW; 1 July - 4 Aug., Horn I., (max. 400 on 31 July), WCW; 4 Aug., Yazoo NWR, E & GA; 1, 31 Aug., Noxubee NWR, JAS, EWP.
- BLACK SKIMMER -- colony of 40 nests, all with eggs, 2 July, Horn I., WCW; 250 ad., 50+ chicks, 31 July, Spoil I., Horn I. Pass, WCW, JS.
- WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- 2, 23 Oct., Buccaneer St. Pk. (both rather tame), LG.
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO -- 26 Sept. (departure), Washington Co., E & GA; 1, 10 Nov., Archer I., Ark., NH.
- BARN OWL -- ad. feeding young, 21 July, MSU campus, WCW.
- SCREECH OWL -- 2, 15 Aug., near Larue, WCW; 2, 27 Aug., JP Coleman St. Pk., WCW.
- BARRED OWL -- 2, 20 Nov., Buccaneer St. Pk., MOS members; 3, 2 Sept., Archer I., NH.
- CHIMNEY SWIFT -- nest with young, 2 Aug., Horn I., WCW; 50 (migrating), 9 Oct., L. Lowndes, WCW.
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK -- flock of 26, 27 Sept., Greenville, E & GA; many, 12 Oct., Archer I., Ark., NH, E & GA.
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD -- 1, 7 July, Horn I., WCW; 1, 11 July, Ocean Springs, WCW; 22 Sept. (departure), Washington Co., E & GA.

- RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 female (possibly 2), 23 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.
(Identification not 100% certain - slim chance that bird could have been Broad-tailed. Rufous feathers at base of tail clearly seen when bird perched, color of sides not noted). If correct, 2nd for state.
- PILEATED WOODPECKER -- Small groups, 2 Sept., Archer I., Ark., NH.
- RED-HEADED WOODPECKER -- 10 to 12, 2 Sept., Archer I., Ark., NH.
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER -- 3 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 1, 3 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 10 Oct. (arrival), Washington Co., E & GA; 2, 23 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.
- RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER -- 1, 23 July, near Latimer, WCW; 1, 23 Oct., near Ansley, LG.
- EASTERN KINGBIRD -- flock of 15, 23 Aug., Yazoo NWR, E & GA.
- GRAY KINGBIRD -- 1, 30 July, 31 July, Horn I., WCW.
- GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER -- 20 Sept. (departure), Washington Co., E & GA.
- EASTERN PHOEBE -- 1, 14 Sept., Gulfport, JT; 16 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 19 Oct. (arrival), Washington Co., E & GA.
- EASTERN WOOD PEWEE -- 1, 8 Oct., Choctaw L., WCW; 17 Oct. (departure), Washington Co., E & GA.
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- 1 male, 19 Oct., L. Jackson, E & GA; 2 males, 27 Nov., L. Jackson, E & GA.
- HORNED LARK -- flock, 14 Nov., Nr. Winterville, Washington Co., NH.
- TREE SWALLOW -- 1, 17 Aug., Gulfport, LG; 4 Sept. (arrival), Attala Co., JAS; 20, 29 Sept., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1000, 19 Oct., L. Jackson, E & GA; few, 23 Oct., Noxubee NWR, JAJ; many, flying S, 7 Nov., Archer I., Ark., NH.
- ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- 75 to 100, 10 Oct., Mississippi R. near Greenville, E & GA.
- BARN SWALLOW -- 40, 17 Aug., Yazoo NWR, E & GA; 30, 23 Oct., Noxubee NWR, JAJ; 7, 28 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 2, 20 Nov., Nr. Lakeshore, MOS members.
- PURPLE MARTIN -- 150, 2 July, Horn I., WCW; 250, 29 July, near Latimer, WCW; 11 Aug. (migrant flock), Choctaw, NH; 17 Aug. (departure), Washington Co., E & GA.
- FISH CROW -- nest with young, 1-4 Aug., Horn I., WCW.
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 1, 8 Sept., 23 Sept., Buccaneer St. Pk., J & JT; 6 Oct., Hattiesburg (uncommon here), LG.
- BROWN CREEPER -- 1, 2 Oct., Noxubee NWR (caught and banded), JAJ; 3 Nov., Hattiesburg, LG.
- HOUSE WREN -- 8 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 10 Oct. (arrival), Washington Co., E & GA; 8, 23 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.
- WINTER WREN -- 2, 31 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- BEWICK'S WREN -- 30 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG.
- LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN -- 1, 29 Sept., Attala Co., JAS (first county record?).
- SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN -- 1, 31 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- CATBIRD -- 3 Oct., Warfield Park, E & GA; several, 10 Oct., Archer I., Ark., NH; 1, 12 Oct., Starkville, JAJ; 17 Oct., Warfield Park, E & GA.
- AMERICAN ROBIN -- "thousands", 3 Nov., Archer I., Ark., NH.
- HERMIT THRUSH -- 2, 20 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 2, 17 Nov., Oktibbeha Co. L. WCW.

- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- pair feeding young cowbird, 18 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 20 Sept. (departure), Washington Co., E & GA.
- GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET -- 10 Oct. (arrival), Washington Co., E & GA; 6, 31 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 12, 8 Nov., Hattiesburg, LG.
- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- 2, 3 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 10 Oct. (arrival), Washington Co., E & GA; 40, 20 Nov., Buccaneer St. Pk., MOS members.
- WATER PIPIT -- 1, 9 Oct., L. Lowndes, WCW; 15, 31 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 10, 17 Nov., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW.
- CEDAR WAXWING -- 2, 22 Aug., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 23 Sept., MSU campus, WCW; 12, 14 Nov., Archer I., Ark., NH.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO -- 1, 3 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW; many, 10 Oct., Archer I., Ark., NH.
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO -- 10 Oct., Warfield Park, E & GA.
- SOLITARY VIREO -- 26 Sept. (arrival), Washington Co., E & GA; 2, 8 Nov., Hattiesburg, LG; 1, 27 Nov., Ocean Springs, WCW.
- RED-EYED VIREO -- 1, 2-7 July, Horn I., WCW; 19 Sept., Warfield Park, E & GA.
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO -- 15 Sept., Attala Co., JAS.
- WARBLING VIREO -- 17 Oct., Hattiesburg (late, careful study), LG.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER -- 2 - 4 Aug., Horn I., (max. 2 on 2 and 3 Aug.), WCW; 23 Sept., Attala Co., JAS, RW.
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER -- 2, 3 Aug., Horn I., WCW; 4 Aug. (departure), Washington Co., E & GA; ad. feeding fledgling, Aug. (date?) Archer I., Ark., NH.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER -- 2, 18 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 14 Sept., Gulfport, JT.
- WORM-EATING WARBLER -- Pair nesting; nest photographed, 16-20 May, 10 mi. SE Vicksburg, Hal Moore & Lewis Cashman (sorry we overlooked this in last issue!).
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER -- 5 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG.
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER -- 1, 8 Aug., near Latimer, WCW; 1 male, 23 Sept., Attala Co., JAS, RW; 23 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG.
- BREWSTER'S WARBLER -- 7 Oct., Hattiesburg (all field marks well seen), LG.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER -- 19 Sept. to 17 Oct., Warfield Park, E & GA; 30 Oct., Hattiesburg (last seen), LG.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 2, 16 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 1, 20 Nov., Buccaneer St. Pk., MOS members.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER -- 1, 14 Sept., Gulfport, JT; 19 Sept. to 17 Oct., Warfield Park, E & GA; 3, 30 Sept., Attala Co., JAS, RW.
- YELLOW WARBLER -- 2, 3 Aug., Horn I., WCW.
- NORTHERN PARULA -- ads. feeding fledglings, 20 July, Archer I., Ark., NH
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER -- 16 Sept., Attala Co., JAS; 20 Oct., Hattiesburg (last seen), LG.
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER -- 15, 9 Oct., L. Lowndes, WCW; 2, 16 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG; 17 Oct. (arrival) Washington Co., E & GA; 100, 23 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER -- 2, 3 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 28 Oct., Hattiesburg (last seen), LG.
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER -- 26 Sept., Canton (last seen), LG.
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER -- 1, 7 July, Horn I., WCW; 3, 3 Aug., Horn I., WCW.
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER -- 22 Sept., Attala Co., JAS, RW; 17 Oct., Hattiesburg (last seen), LG.

- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER -- 17 Oct., Hattiesburg (last seen), LG.
 PRAIRIE WARBLER -- 2, 3 Aug., Horn I., WCW; 3 Sept., Attala Co., JAS;
 9 Oct., Bellefontaine Beach (last seen), LG.
 PALM WARBLER -- 8 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG
 OVENBIRD -- 15 Sept. and 7 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG.
 NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH -- 2, 17 Aug., Pearl R. delta, La., LG, JT, WCW.
 LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH -- 1, 16 Aug., Monticello, CB; 6 Sept., Attala Co.,
 JAS.
 HOODED WARBLER -- 1 male, 3 Aug., Horn I., WCW.
 WILSON'S WARBLER -- 16 Sept., Attala Co., JAS, 19 Sept., Warfield Park,
 E & GA.
 CANADA WARBLER -- 22 Sept., Attala Co., JAS, RW.
 AMERICAN REDSTART -- 1, 3 Aug., 4 Aug., Horn I., WCW; 22 Sept., Attala
 Co., JAS, RW.
 ORCHARD ORIOLE -- 26 Sept. (departure), Washington Co., E & GA.
 NORTHERN ORIOLE -- 21 Aug. (departure), Washington Co., E & GA.
 RUSTY BLACKBIRD -- 1, 17 Nov., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW.
 BREWER'S BLACKBIRD -- 20, 20 Nov., Nr. Lakeshore, WCW, WJW.
 BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE -- 20, 20 Nov., Nr. Lakeshore, MOS members.
 BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD -- very numerous, early July, Archer I., Ark., NH.
 SCARLET TANAGER -- 1, 27 Aug., JP Coleman St. Pk., WCW; 7 Oct., Hatties-
 burg, LG.
 SUMMER TANAGER -- 22 Sept. (departure), Washington Co., E & GA; 1, 9 Oct.,
 L. Lowndes, WCW; 14 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG.
 ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK -- 2 female or imm., 1 Sept., Buccaneer St. Pk.,
 JT, FM; 1, 23 Sept., MSU campus, WCW; 7, 20 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG.
 BLUE GROSBEAK -- 16 Oct., Hattiesburg (last seen), LG
 INDIGO BUNTING -- 3, 9 Oct., L. Lowndes, WCW; 17 Oct. (departure),
 Washington Co., E & GA; 20 Oct., Hattiesburg (departure), LG.
 PAINTED BUNTING -- 29 July, Archer I., Ark., NH; 22 Sept. (departure)
 Washington Co., E & GA.
 PURPLE FINCH -- 1 male, 5 Nov., Jackson, M & C Berry, feeder; several
 14 Nov., Archer I., Ark., NH; 3, 17 Nov., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW.
 AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -- 1, 22 Aug., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 2 (1 male, 1 female),
 27 Aug., Tishomingo St. Pk., WCW; 17 Oct. (arrival), Washington Co.,
 E & GA.
 RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE -- newly-fledged brood, Aug 3-4, Horn I., WCW.
 SAVANNAH SPARROW -- 19 Sept., Canton, LG; 9 (caught and banded), 13 Oct.,
 Starkville, JAJ, BS; 50, 20 Nov., Buccaneer St. Pk., WCW, WJW, JT;
40, 24 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.
 DARK-EYED JUNCO -- 6, 31 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 6 Nov. (arrival),
 Washington Co., E & GA; large flock, 7 Nov., Archer I., Ark., NH;
5, 8 Nov., Hattiesburg, LG; 50, 23 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.
 CHIPPING SPARROW -- 20 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG.
 WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW -- 28 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG.
 WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- several, 10 Oct., Archer I., Ark., NH; 15 Oct.,
 Hattiesburg, LG; 80, 23 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.
 FOX SPARROW -- 1, 24 Nov., E. Ship I., WCW.
 SWAMP SPARROW -- 1, 8 Oct., Choctaw L., WCW; 8 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG;
 12 Oct. (arrival), Washington Co., E & GA.
 SONG SPARROW -- 30 Sept., Attala Co., JAS, RW; 10 Oct. (arrival),
 Washington Co., E & GA; 3, 28 Oct., Hattiesburg, LG.

Key to Observers.-- E & EA = Ed and Ginger Alexander, CB = Carl Bauer, CBR = Charles Bryson, AB = Anna Bullard, LG = Larry Gates, NH = Nona Herbert, JI = Rev. John Izral, JAJ = Jerome A. Jackson, FM = Fred Milenovich, EWP = E. W. Permenter, JAS = James A. Sanders, BS = Bette Schardien, JT = Judy Toups, J & JT = Judy and Jay Toups, WCW = Wayne C. Weber, WJW = Wendy J. Weber, RW = Ray Weeks.

Key to Abbreviated Localities.-- Many localities were identified in the Mississippi Kite 6(1):19. Those not previously identified are as follows: Ansley = Hancock Co.; Bay St. Louis = Hancock Co.; Buccaneer St. Pk. = Hancock Co.; Canton = Madison Co.; Choctaw = Bolivar Co.; Choctaw L. = Choctaw Co.; Clermont Hbr. = Hancock Co.; Durant = Holmes Co.; Greenville = Washington Co.; Hattiesburg = Forrest Co.; Herron Bay Rd. = Hancock Co.; J.P. Coleman St. Pk. = Tishomingo Co.; Lake Lowndes = Lowndes Co.; Lake Mary Crawford = Lawrence Co.; Lakeshore = Hancock Co.; Latimer = Jackson Co.; Leroy Percy St. Pk. = Washington Co.; Loakfoma L. = Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Noxubee Co.; Lyman = Harrison Co.; Monticello = Lawrence Co.; Ocean Springs = Jackson Co.; Ship Island = Harrison Co.; Vicksburg = Warren Co.; Warfield Park = Washington Co.; Waveland = Hancock Co.

Note to Contributors.-- The next issue of The Mississippi Kite, which we expect to publish in March, will include sightings from the period beginning 1 December 1976. Please submit your observations for the winter season by 5 March 1977. If your group held a Christmas Bird Count, please send us a list of your results, and we will include highlights from these in "Birds Around the State". For unusual records (casual or accidental species, or out-of-season birds), supply as much detail as possible, including a detailed description of the bird(s). For all records, please specify the number of birds, date, exact locality, and observer(s). Good quality photographs for use in The Mississippi Kite would be welcomed.

Not all records received can be published. Those of interest are: early and late records of migrants, records of unusual species or unusual numbers of birds, and unusual breeding records. All breeding records, for any species, are desired for our nest record card file.

THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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Organized 30 April 1955

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