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Front Cover: A Barred Owl giving a distraction display. Drawn by Stephen Peterson (see article on page 32).

Apparent Distraction Display of Barred Owl

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On 2 April 1975 I was in the Mayes Lake area of Riverside Park, which is located along the Pearl River in Jackson, Ms. This is in an area of oxbow lakes, cypress and bottomland habitat. I was searching for two fledgling Barred Owls (Strix varia) that I had first found on March 27.

On this particular day, I was looking for the owlets when I heard a rapid, rather high-pitched trilling whistle, very ventriloquial in quality. I felt certain one of the owls was doing the whistling, since an extremely similar whistle is heard in the Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus) segment of the National Geographic special, "Strange Creatures of the Night". At this point, several Blue Jays (Cyanositta cristata) started to give their mobbing call in a tree by one of the lakes. I investigated and found both the approximately month-old owls in the tree.

Now both parent owls began to hoot the single note "hooah" and flew back and forth. Then one of them began to make a chattering noise ("chi-chi-chi", very rapidly), while perched lengthwise on a branch, fluttering its wings and with its feet, as though caught on the branch (see cover), which is exactly what I thought had happened. I went over to the base of the owl's tree and it repeated the performance for about a minute, then stopped. I realized this was probably a distraction display, then decided the owls had been disturbed enough and left.

The next day, 3 April, I returned, but the parent owls did not make any commotion. However, on 4 April, one of the owls performed the distraction display twice in succession, waited a few minutes, then displayed again, while the other parent owl whistled as above. This time, the display was not as intense as that on 2 April. Apparently, Barred Owls have a distraction display, although in this particular case it did not seem to be very persistent, lasting at most only a few minutes. This is the only pair of Barred Owls I have seen do anything like this.

I would like to thank Don R. Eckelberry for his kind advice concerning the illustration.

A Second Locality Nesting Record of the
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Mississippi

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On 10 June 1977 while driving west on highway 80 and approaching Lawrence, Newton County, Mississippi, I saw a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (Muscivora forficata) perched on a service wire to a roadside residence. I turned around and returned to the residence driveway, but the bird had flown and alighted on a beanpole in a nearby garden. It flew again and climbed to at least 60 meters, caught an insect and went directly to a large loblolly pine (Pinus taeda) growing alongside the highway right-of-way. I drove back down the highway and into a parking area by some butane storage tanks near the pine. The flycatcher was found sitting on a nest atop a horizontal branch of the pine tree extending out over the highway and about 10 meters from the ground. The bird remained on the nest until I left about 30 minutes later.

On 11 June I returned to the nest site with my wife and granddaughter and the Scissor-tail was perched on a dead limb of a nearby small persimmon tree (Diospyros virginiana). An Eastern Kingbird (Tyrannus tyrannus) was perched in the same tree. The Scissor-tail made several flights to nearby trees, each time returning to the nest tree and at one time remaining on the nest for 10 minutes. It called softly each time while alighting in the nest tree. We observed the bird's movements for more than an hour. Jarvis Parker, a State Conservation Officer, stopped and also observed the bird on the nest. While he was there a pair of Eastern Kingbirds returned to the nest tree and one flew to its nest atop some pine cones on a higher branch than the Scissor-tail nest and near the top of the same tree. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher left the nest just as we decided to leave and it flew high and out of sight in an easterly direction. Later in the morning the Scissor-tail was observed by Christine Berry, Frances Wills, and Ruth Downey.

No more than one Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen at this location and the sex could not be determined. The nest was a bulky structure composed of weed stems, including those of cudweed or rabbit tobacco (Gnaphalium sp.) which often are used by Mockingbirds (Mimus polyglottos) in constructing their nests. The nest contents could not be examined because of its height and location over the highway.

John Phares and I returned to the nest site the afternoon of 21 June and we saw no Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. This is the second locality nesting record for Mississippi. Jerome A. Jackson, Robert Howell, and David F. Werschkul described what they believed to be the first breeding record of this species east of the Mississippi River (American Birds 29:912, 1975), a nest containing a dead nestling, three recently-fledged young and two adults at the same site on 5 and 6 July, 1975 located in a pasture at the southern city limits of Tupelo, Lee County, Mississippi.

Recent Records of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Mississippi

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The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*; Fig. 1) is generally thought of as a bird of the southern Great Plains, but it is known for turning up in odd places at odd times (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 179, 1942). Early records of this species in Mississippi were summarized by Turcotte (Mississippi Kite 2(2):32, 1972). Apparently the species has been known from the state only since 1952. A number of additional sightings, including three breeding records for Mississippi, can be added to Turcotte's summary. These records are as follows:



Figure 1. An adult male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.
Photograph by J. A. Jackson

1. On 6 October 1971, Jacob Miller observed and photographed three Scissor-tailed Flycatchers at Belle Fontaine Beach in Jackson County (M.O.S. Newsletter 16(4):3, 1971).
2. On 24 October 1972, H. Champ Clark collected a specimen for the State Wildlife Museum in Amite County.
3. On 14 April 1973, Carroll Perkins photographed a Scissor-tail at Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge in Noxubee County (Oktibbeha Audubon Newsletter 4(5):2, 1973).

4. In early July 1974, George Switzer saw a Scissor-tail near Flora in Yazoo County. (Letter on file at Mississippi State University.)

5. On 5 July 1975, Robert Howell, David Werschkul, and Jerome Jackson found the nest, adults, and 3 recently fledged young Scissor-tailed Flycatchers just south of Tupelo in Lee County (Jackson et al., *American Birds* 29:912, 1975). Mrs. W. T. Watson had previously located the nest 2.5 m up in a 4 m sweetgum (*Liquidamber styraciflua*). The nest tree was standing in about 0.5 m of water about 15 m from the southeast corner of a 2 ha pond. The nest and the skeleton of a dead nestling that was in the nest are in the ornithological collection at Mississippi State University. Mrs. Watson reported that the Scissor-tails were last seen in the area on about 1 August 1975.

6. In mid-July 1975, William S. Parker saw a Scissor-tail about 8 km west of Columbus in Lowndes County (Letter on file at Mississippi State University.)

7. On 17 April 1976 a pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returned to the Watson farm near Tupelo. They nested in the same nest tree as in 1975 and were successful in fledging 4 young during the last week of June (W. T. Watson, pers. comm.).

8. On 14 March 1977, Donald M. Bradburn observed a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on Horn Island.

9. In early April 1977 a single male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher returned to the Watson farm near Tupelo. It centered its activities around the tree that had been used as a nest site in 1975 and 1976. This lone bird remained in the area until the first week in July - "defending" a territory without opposition and without success in finding a mate.

10. On 10 June 1977 William H. Turcotte discovered a pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers nesting near Lawrence in Newton County. (See article in this issue of the Mississippi Kite.)

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher has been expanding its range eastward in recent years (Lowery, *Louisiana Birds*, Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1974:425-426). East of the Mississippi River, in addition to Mississippi, it has also been reported nesting in southwestern Indiana (Howell and Theroff, *Auk* 93:644-645, 1976). With at least two successful nests of the species recorded from Mississippi, it looks like the Scissor-tail may become a regular member of our avifauna.

Present Status of the Cliftonville Heronry

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In this report I will discuss the development and present status of a large inland breeding colony of herons and egrets located in eastern Mississippi (32°N 87°W) about 8 km southeast of Cliftonville in Noxubee County (see Fig. 1). Situated in the blacklands, a region characterized by clay soils (Vanderford 1965), the surrounding area is primarily pasture land though, cotton and soybeans are common crops. This region is dotted with islands of deciduous forest and it is in one of these ecological islands where the herons nest.

In discussions with local landowners I learned that the site was first used for breeding by Little Blue Herons (Florida caerulea) in 1947. The heronry presently includes nesting Little Blue Herons, Cattle Egrets (Bubulcus ibis), Snowy Egrets (Leucophoyx thula), and Great Egrets (Casmerodius albus). White Ibis (Eudocimus albus), in adult plumage have been seen in the Cliftonville heronry since 1975 in groups of from 4 to 12 birds. All observations of ibis have been late in the season (late June into July). White Ibis breed in a heronry near Uniontown, Alabama (Werschkul, in press) and it appears to be a matter of time before they start breeding in central Mississippi. Whether or not Great Egrets or Snowy Egrets were originally present in the Cliftonville heronry is unknown, though it is certain that Cattle Egrets were not involved. The first breeding record for Mississippi, and for the Cliftonville heronry, was not until 1968 (Webster 1968), although it is likely that Cattle Egrets were breeding in the state earlier than 1968 but went unnoticed. Atkinson (1962) reports Cattle Egrets nesting in Alabama in 1962. While estimates of breeding numbers during the initial years are unreliable, local residents report that as many, if not more, birds used the Cliftonville heronry during its initiation year as were present during 1977. It appears that this heronry is a continuation of a pre-existing breeding colony and has probably seen only moderate changes in size, though composition has changed.

The choice of this site was no doubt influenced by a prior practice of using osage orange (Maclura pomifera) and other trees as a source of fence posts. The result of this pruning was a low overstory of trees with multiple-branched trunks. Today, 30 years later, the 3.07 ha site is characterized by osage orange, sugarberry (Celtis laevigata), green ash (Fraxinus sp.), various oaks (Quercus spp.), hickories (Carya spp.), and elms (Ulmus spp) with an understory dominated by giant ragweed (Ambrosia trifida). Changes in the overstory vegetation and the probable effects on the reproductive biology of the herons have been discussed elsewhere (Werschkul 1977).

In 1977 the heronry had an estimated 2200 breeding pairs, primarily Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons (see Table 1). This was approximately

TABLE 1. Composition of the Cliftonville heronry from the years 1975 to 1977

Species	Number of Breeding Pairs		
	1975	1976	1977
Little Blue Heron	1750	2050	950
Cattle Egret	1500	450	1250
Snowy Egret	3	2	2
Great Egret	12	10	3

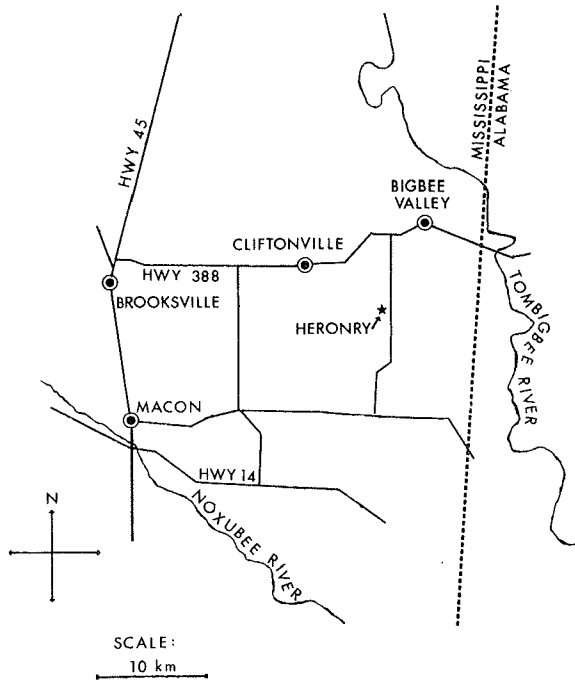


Figure 1. Location of the Cliftonville heronry in 1977.

1000 fewer than in 1975, but about the same total as recorded by Summerour (1971) for 1970. Lack of data for some years, coupled with the difficulty of obtaining accurate counts, prohibit a detailed analysis of population trends, though for the years 1975-77 a decrease is seen. This decrease was a reflection of the drop in the number of Cattle Egrets in 1976, and of Little Blue Herons in 1977. Cattle Egrets appear to be stimulated to begin breeding with rainfall (Werschkul, pers. observ.). For example, in 1976 significant rainfall was absent from mid-April to early June and Cattle Egrets, which normally begin breeding in early May, did not breed until mid-June. All Cattle Egrets that were present in the heronry in 1976 did not breed, and those that did abandoned their nests within 2 weeks after construction. The decline in Little Blue Herons in 1977 is not explainable, though it may be in response to changes in habitat both inside and outside the heronry.

The use of the Cliftonville heronry as a major breeding colony of herons and egrets in east-central Mississippi appears to be near an end. The normal growth of the overstory vegetation since the stopping of the pruning, coupled with the loss of all overstory vegetation in some areas, particularly where the Cattle Egrets have nested, has reduced the number of available nest sites. This normal process of heronry decay may be speeded up by loss of feeding habitat to native herons with construction of the Tennessee-Tombigbee waterway. The Cliftonville heronry is located between the Tombigbee and Noxubee Rivers (see Fig. 1) and food samples from Little Blue Heron nestlings indicate that the low lands near the two rivers are used extensively by this species. A reasonable prediction would be that the heronry would shift westward away from Tennessee-Tombigbee waterway toward the Noxubee River.

I thank Dr. Jerome A. Jackson for helpful comments on an early draft of this manuscript. The Oktibbeha Audubon Society and Mississippi Ornithological Society leased the land where the heronry was located. Financial support was provided by the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund of the American Museum of Natural History and the Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid Program.

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A Rock Wren on Archer Island, Arkansas

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On 10 October 1976 I observed and photographed a Rock Wren (Salpinctes obsoletus) on Archer Island, Arkansas. Archer Island is on the east side of the Mississippi and is near Greenville, Washington Co., Mississippi. The area I was in when I saw him had been planted in beans, and the perimeter of the approximately 150 acre field had logs piled up to discourage deer from feeding on the beans. I saw a Carolina Wren (Thryothorus ludovicianus) first and stopped. Then I saw this pale gray bird bobbing up and down as it walked along a log. He was slightly longer than the Carolina Wren and slimmer looking. Chandler S. Robbins kindly confirmed my identification from the photographs I took. The Rock Wren has been reported before in Arkansas, but is apparently a rare bird in the state. This species has not yet been reported from Mississippi.



Figure 1. Views of a Rock Wren, Archer Island, Arkansas. Photos by Nona Herbert.

Observations of a Black Vulture Nest

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A pair of Black Vultures (Coragyps atratus) selected a nesting site deep in swampy deciduous woods in Madison County, Mississippi, beside an uprooted tree. On 16 April 1977 I found 2 eggs laid on bare ground and being incubated. No nest building activities were noted and there was no nest, but there was a slight depression where the eggs rested. Just before hatching (by 30 April), 1 egg disappeared from the nest. The other egg hatched, revealing a yellow-downed chick about 13 cm long. Vulture features were evident, but it did not develop the head nor leg color of a vulture until 4-5 weeks old. No adult was observed at the nest after incubation. The young bird lived alone and was fed an undetermined number of times a day. Its only defense from predators seemed to be the hissing noise it made upon approach. It grew rapidly and began standing and walking by 2 weeks of age. At 6 weeks black feathers were evident through the yellow down, and the bird could run rapidly away from intruders. Its usual hiding place was in a ditch covered over with live southern blackberry canes. It was able to fly by 12 weeks of age (by July 23). At no time was the usual offensive odor of vulture nests evident, and in fact, no nest odors were detected at all.

A Late Nesting Record of the Swainson's Warbler in Wilkinson County

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On 27 June 1977 I located a nest of the Swainson's Warbler (Limothlypis swainsonii) in a deep loess bluff ravine alongside a stream bank at the headwaters of Clark Creek in southwestern Wilkinson County, Mississippi, near the Pond community. An adult was incubating on the nest and flushed only when the nest was touched. The nest was supported by two small canes about a meter above the ground in a cane thicket and it contained 2 nest-stained eggs. The nest was typical of this species and was composed of loosely-compressed dead leaves lined with rootlets. John Phares, Jack Herring, and Bill Quisenberry observed the nest and Bill Quisenberry photographed it. The latest nesting occurrence on file at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science is 14 June 1941 when 4 young left a nest observed by B. A. Bloodsworth in Boguehoma Creek Swamp east of Laurel in Jones County. I know of no other breeding record of this species for Wilkinson County or in southwest Mississippi south of Interstate 20 west of Interstate 55. I have recorded singing males previously at locations along the Natchez Trace Parkway in southwest Hinds County, and in Claiborne and Jefferson counties.

Christmas Bird Count Summary - Additions and Corrections

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Results from the Natchez Christmas Count were received too late to be included in the Christmas Count summary in the May issue (Mississippi Kite 7:24-27). A correction also must be made for the Jackson count.

Natchez (Ralph Shields, compiler) - Dec. 18, 1976; hours? Weather clear, temp. 38° to 63° (wind?). 20 observers in ? parties. Total party-hours, 51 (19 on foot, 32 by car); total party-miles, 250 (13 on foot, 237 by car). Total species, 94; total individuals, 5601.

Like most other groups in the state, Natchez observers had an excellent count, with a near-record 20 observers and a total of 94 species, highest since 1969, which also produced 94 species. Unusual species reported this year included 6 Eared Grebes (a record for the state?), 6 Anhingas, 7 Common Mergansers, a Vermilion Flycatcher (2nd year in a row!), 2 Sprague's Pipits, 2 Northern Orioles, a Painted Bunting, and a Henslow's Sparrow. Other birds considered unusual in the Natchez area were Snowy Egret (2) and American Woodcock (4). Northern Orioles have now been seen 4 years in a row on the Natchez count or in count period - what kind of goodies do you people put out to attract them to your feeders??

Jackson (William Turcotte, compiler) - The Bald Eagle total on this count should be one (adult), not 12! This number should also be corrected in the "Birds Around the State" section (Mississippi Kite 7(1):28).

Birds Around the State - Spring Migration and Breeding Season, 1977

Compiled by Wayne C. Weber and Jerome A. Jackson

The following is a summary of noteworthy bird sightings in Mississippi, and some in immediately adjacent areas, for the 1977 spring migration (1 March to 31 May) and breeding season (1 June to 31 July) periods. (A few observations from January and February 1977 are also included.) The list of sightings is followed by a key to observers' initials and another key identifying all localities mentioned. Most sightings fall into one of the following categories, as indicated by a capital letter: (A), arrival date and (D), departure date for migratory species; (E), exceptionally early date, and (L), exceptionally late date; (N), large number; (R), species rare in the area concerned; or (C) species casual or accidental (of less than annual occurrence) in Mississippi.

Abbreviations used in this section are: m, male; f, female; ad., adult; subad., subadult; imm., immature; pr., pair; pl., plumage; max., maximum; BBS, Breeding Bird Survey.

- COMMON LOON -- 1, 10 May, Gulfport, JT (D); 1, 25 May, off Ocean Springs, RPR; 1 (breeding pl.), also 1 freshly dead, 25 May, East Ship I., RPR; several other birds seen and 2 others found dead in mid- to late May, mostly on Horn I. (RPR); some of living birds appeared ill; 5, 28 June, Petit Bois I., RPR (R in summer); 1, 4 and 5 July, East Ship I., WCW.
- RED-THROATED LOON -- 1, 14 June, East Ship I., WCW (C - apparently 5th record and first summer record for Miss.; detailed notes on file).
- EARED GREBE -- 6, 13 Mar., Hattiesburg sewage ponds (probably at least 6 present all winter), LYG, WCW (R).
- PIED-BILLED GREBE -- 3, 20 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- WHITE PELICAN -- 25, 8 Mar., on water off East Ship I., WCW; 150, 18 Apr. (birds present one day only), Hattiesburg sewage ponds, LYG (N); 1, 5 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, JT (R in summer); 1, 6 June, same place, WCW.
- BROWN PELICAN -- 12, early May (date?), spoil island W of Petit Bois I., ML; 6, 14 May, spoil island W of Petit Bois I., MH; 5 ads., 28 June, spoil island W of Petit Bois I. (later seen feeding along beach on Petit Bois), WCW, JT, RPR; 1, 12 July, Biloxi harbor, KL (R).
- GANNET -- 11 (2 ad., 9 imm.), 8 Mar., East Ship I. (including a flock of 9 fishing 2 mi. S of island), WCW; 3, 9 Mar., East Ship I., WCW; 2, 11 Mar., Mississippi Sound (Horn I. to Ocean Springs), WCW.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- 1, 5 May, Pass Christian, JT (D); 20 on channel marker, 13 May, off Ocean Springs, WCW; 1 on same marker, 19 May, RPR (D).
- ANHINGA -- 1, 22 May, Noxubee NWR, DP (WOS field trip) (R); 3, 20 June, Merrill, RPR; 5, 22 June, Merrill, WCW (probably nesting nearby).
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD -- 1, 29 Mar., Gulfport, JT (E); 210 (60 soaring overhead, 150 following shrimp boats), 21 May, East Ship I., RPR (N); 120, 28 June, Biloxi Bay & Miss. Sound, WCW, JT, RPR (N); 40, 5 July, East Ship I., WCW (N).

- GREAT BLUE HERON -- 2 nests with young, June-July, East Ship I., WCW; 10 nesting pairs, Deer I. (colony wiped out by fire on 5 June), reported to RPR.
- GREEN HERON -- 1, 27 Mar., Noxubee NWR, JAJ (A); 1, 6 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A).
- LITTLE BLUE HERON -- 100 nesting with Cattle Egrets W of Newton, 10 June, WHT, MT.
- CATTLE EGRET -- 1, 17 Mar., Monticello, CB (A); 1, 29 Mar., Hillside Floodway (Holmes Co.), WHT, JHP (A); (Number?), 13 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A); About 2000 nesting (most nests with eggs, no young seen) in thicket nr. 1-20 W of Newton, 10 June, WHT, MT.
- REDDISH EGRET -- 1, 11 and 12 May (WCW) and 25 May (RPR), East Ship I.; 3, possibly 5 (birds were flying about), 17 to 19 May, Horn I., RPR; 1, 13 to 15 June, East Ship I., WCW; 1, 5 July, East Ship I., WCW.
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON -- 1 subad., June and July, East Ship I., WCW.
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON -- 1, 9 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ; 1, 21 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A).
- LEAST BITTERN -- 1 m calling, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A).
- WOOD STORK -- 30, 20 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 2, 22 July, near Lucedale, LJG.
- WHITE IBIS -- 20, 21 and 22 June, Merrill, (probably nesting nearby), WCW; 2 imm., 30 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, RPR.
- WHISTLING SWAN -- 2, 24 Mar.-3 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ (D).
- CANADA GOOSE -- 2000, 28 Feb., Noxubee NWR, JS (N); 200 flying N, 25 Mar., Starkville, WCW; several incubating, 30 March, Noxubee NWR, JAJ.
- SNOW GOOSE -- 1 ad., 28 Feb., Noxubee NWR, JS.
- MALLARD -- 1 m, starting eclipse, 6 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW (L).
- MOTTLED DUCK -- 2 (pr), possibly nesting, 30 Apr. (JT), 15 May (JT, WCW), Buccaneer State Pk.; 15 ads., including 2 f with broods (8 and 9 young), and another f flushed from probable nest, 8 May, Pascagoula R. Marsh, WCW; Many present throughout June (max. 60 ads. on 29 June), Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JT, RPR (several females with broods seen); 62 ads., 30 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, RPR (N - probably record high count for Miss.).
- GADWALL -- 6 (3 pr), 28 Mar., Hillside Floodway, Holmes Co., WHT, JHP (D).
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL -- 2 (pr), 8 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 1 m (with probable f), 6 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 1 m with probable f, 19 June, same place, WCW, JT, RPR; 1 m, 29 and 30 June, same place, WCW (R in summer).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL -- 5 m, 28 Feb., Noxubee NWR, JS (A); 40, 25 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (N); 4, 18 May, Mississippi Sound off Horn I., RPR (D); 3 (pr plus 1f), 21 and 25 May, West Ship I., RPR (D); Several present throughout June, both m and f (max. 12 on 19 June), Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JT, RPR (R in summer); 4, 30 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, RPR.
- AMERICAN WIGEON -- 2 m, 8 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW (D).
- NORTHERN SHOVELER -- 6 (3 pr), 2 Apr., Madison Co., WHT (D).
- RING-NECKED DUCK -- several, 28 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (D); 1 f, 17 May Hattiesburg sewage ponds, LJG, WCW (L).

- GREATER SCAUP -- 1 f, 7 Mar., West Ship I., WCW (R).
 LESSER SCAUP -- 51 f, 7 m, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ; 10, 8 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 10, 17 May, Hattiesburg sewage ponds, LYG, WCW (D); Several non-breeders present throughout June (9 on 6 June, 6 on 29 June: not crippled, could fly), Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JT, RPR (R in summer)
- BUFFLEHEAD -- 5, 21 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (D).
 OLDSQUAW -- 2, 7 Mar., Mississippi Sound off Biloxi, WCW; 40, 7 Mar., West Ship I., WCW (N); 7 to 12 daily, 8 to 10 Mar., East Ship I., WCW; 32, 1 Apr., Gulfport harbor, JT (N).
 WHITE-WINGED SCOTER -- 1 f, 1 Apr., Gulfport, JT (R).
 SURF SCOTER -- 5, (3 m, 2 f), 15 May, Horn I., DMB (R).
 BLACK SCOTER -- 8 (6 f, 2 imm. m), 10 Mar., East Ship I., WCW (detailed notes on file) (C).
 RUDDY DUCK -- 1 f, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (D); 4, 17 May, Hattiesburg sewage ponds, LYG, WCW (L).
 HOODED MERGANSER -- 4, 1 Apr., Gulfport, JT (D); 1 f, 6 Apr., L. Mary Crawford, CB (D).
 RED-BREASTED MERGANSER -- 3 f, 15 May, Bay St. Louis & Waveland, JT, WCW; 2 f, 25 May, East Ship I., RPR; 5, (all in imm./f plumage), 14 to 17 June (none in July), East Ship I., WCW (R in summer).
 SWALLOW-TAILED KITE -- 1, 11 Mar., just E. of La. state line on U.S. 90, JT (A); 1, 10 Apr., Pascagoula R. near Wade, WCW, WJW; 2 (pr), 20 June, Merrill, RPR; 1, 15 July, Pascagoula R., W. of Wade, RPR; 2, 22 July, Merrill, LYG; 1 imm., 24 July, Pascagoula R., near Wade, WCW.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE -- 50, in loose flocks, 14 May, Tennessee Bar, WHT, JAS (N); 2 (pr), ad. incubating on nest in pecan tree, 22 May, Chotard Landing, WHT, JHL; birds also seen carrying nest material on 19 May; 40 plus feeding over pasture, 4 June, Eagle L., WHT, MG (N); 3 (including a pr), Merrill, 20 June, RPR; 2 (pr), Merrill, 22 June, WCW; 1, 15 July, Pascagoula R., W of Wade, RPR; 4 ads. (at least 1 pr), 24 July, same place, WCW.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK -- 1, 23 Apr., Dorman L., WCW (D).
 COOPER'S HAWK -- 1, 29 Mar., Holmes Co., WHT, JHP; 1, 5 May, Jackson, WHT.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK -- 1, 8 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A). Unusually scarce in migration at Kosciusko this spring (JS); June and July, numerous records from D'Iberville, Ocean Springs, De Soto Natl. Forest, Merrill, Wade, Pearl R. Swamp (WCW, JT, RPR).
- MARSH HAWK -- 1 f, 10 Apr., Starkville, JAJ; 1, 8 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 1 m, 5 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, JT; 1, 6 June, same place, WCW; 1 f, 13 June, same place, RPR; 2 (1 m, 1 f, possibly a pr), 19 June, same place, WCW, JT, RPR; no later sightings (R in summer); 1 f, 30 July, Kosciusko, JS (E).
- OSPREY -- 4 (2 pr), 8 to 10 Mar., East Ship I., WCW; 1, 25 Mar.; 1, 31 Mar.; 1, 10 Apr.; 1, 14 Apr., all at L. Mary Crawford, CB; 1, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ, WCW (A); 1, 23 Apr., Dorman L., WCW; 2, 26 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ; at least 13 active nests (1 destroyed in fire, May 1977), Horn I., RPR et al.; 1 active nest, Deer I., (apparently abandoned after fire on 5 June) reported to RPR; 4 active nests, East Ship I. (1 nest still with young on 14 June, but other nests had apparently fledged young by then), WCW.

- PEREGRINE FALCON -- 1, 8 to 9 Mar., East Ship I., WCW (R); 1, 10 and 11 May, East Ship I., WCW (R,L).
- MERLIN -- 1, 10 May, East Ship I., WCW (R,D).
- WILD TURKEY -- 1 f with 3 flying yg., 23 May, Noxubee NWR, JAJ.
- SANDHILL CRANE -- Apr. and May, pair nesting about 10 mi N of previously known nesting areas in Jackson Co., JV (R).
- KING RAIL -- 1, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ, WCW; 1 (seen well), 15 June, East Ship I., WCW (R in summer on coastal islands).
- PURPLE GALLINULE -- 1, 14 June, East Ship I., WCW.
- AMERICAN COOT -- 10, 6 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 8, 19 June, same place, WCW, JT, RPR; 2, 30 June, same place, WCW (R in summer).
- SEMIPALMATED PLOVER -- 1, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 4, 8 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 1, 19 May, Tupelo fish hatchery, BBC, LCC; 1, 13 June, East Ship I., WCW (R in early summer); 2, 15 June, East Ship I., WCW; 3, 19 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JT, RPR; 8, 30 June, same place, WCW (N); 8, 29 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, RPR.
- PIPING PLOVER -- 6, 5 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, JT (N; R in summer); 1, 30 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 2, 5 July, East Ship I., WCW (E).
- SNOWY PLOVER -- 2, 8 Mar., East Ship I., WCW; 11 (at least 4 or 5 pr), 17 and 18 May, Horn I., RPR (N); 4 (2 pr), 21 May, West Ship I. (but none on East Ship I.), RPR; 1, 28 June, Petit Bois I., WCW, JT, RPR.
- WILSON'S PLOVER -- 1, 8 to 10 Mar., East Ship I., WCW (A); 14 (at least 5 or 6 pr, plus some apparently unmated birds), 21 May, West Ship I., RPR; 9, 25 May, East Ship I., RPR (but none on Horn I., 17 to 19 May); 15, (8 in 1 flock), 15 June, East Ship I., WCW (N); 8, 5 July, East Ship I., WCW; present throughout June and July (max. 8 on 3 June) and probably nested, Pascagoula R. marsh, JT, WCW, RPR.
- AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER -- 14 (winter plumage; appeared to have just crossed Gulf), 7 Mar., West Ship I., WCW (A); 20, 9 Mar., near Hattiesburg, WHT, JHP.
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER -- 19 (most in breeding plumage), 8 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 60 (most in breeding plumage), 18 May, Horn I., RPR; 13 to 17 June (max. 4 on 15 June), East Ship I., WCW; 14, (most in winter pl.), 19 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JT, RPR.
- RUDDY TURNSTONE -- 1, 31 May, West Ship I., RPR (L).
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK -- courtship calls heard regularly by 28 Feb., near Kosciusko, JS; 2 heard displaying, 4 Mar., Starkville, WCW.
- WHIMBREL -- 1, 7 May, Ocean Springs, WCW; 2, 8 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- 3, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ, WCW (A); 1, 25 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A); 2, 19 May, Tupelo fish hatchery, BBC, LCC; several, 22 May, near Columbus on Tombigbee R. in Clay Co., JAJ; 1 4 to 6 July, East Ship I., WCW (E); 1, 19 and 20 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW (A).
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER -- 6, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 1, 18 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A); 1, 3 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, JT (L); 6, 30 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, RPR (A)
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS -- 1, 3 Mar., Holmes Co., WHT (A); 10, 30 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW.
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS -- 1, 13 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, RPR; 3, 19 June, same place, WCW, JT, RPR; 120, same place, 29 and 30 June, WCW (N).

- RED KNOT -- 1, 5 May, Waveland, JT; 4, 17 May, Horn I., RPR; 2, (winter pl.), 4 July, East Ship I., WCW (E).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER -- 26, 30 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, RPR (A).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER -- 1, 19 May, Tupelo fish hatchery, BBC, LCC; 6, 25 May, East Ship I., RPR.
- LEAST SANDPIPER -- 20, 30 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW (E); 3, 19 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW (A).
- DUNLIN -- 50 (most in breeding plumage), 8 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 72 (most in breeding plumage), 25 May, East Ship I., RPR (D).
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER -- 80, 8 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 56, 5 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, JT; 35, 6 June, same place, WCW; 18, 13 June, same place, RPR; 80 (most in breeding plumage), 29 June, same place, WCW; 150, 19 July, same place, RPR; 110, 29 July, same place, RPR (N); 3 to 5 July (max 8 on 4 July), East Ship I., WCW.
- STILT SANDPIPER -- 1, 17 May, Horn I., RPR; 1 (full breeding plumage), 30 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW (E); 22, 29 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, RPR (N).
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER -- 500, 8 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW (N); 30, 19 May, Tupelo fish hatchery, BBC, LCC; 150, 6 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 4, 15 June, East Ship I., WCW; 60, 19 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JT, RPR.
- PEEP SPP. -- 1500, (mostly Westerns), 30 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW RPR.
- MARbled GODWIT -- 1, 17 Apr., Pascagoula R. marsh, LJJ (R); 1, 21 May, West Ship I., RPR (R).
- SANDERLING -- 13 to 17 June (max. 20 on 15 June), East Ship I., WCW.
- AMERICAN AVOCET -- 33, 8 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; present throughout June and July (counts ranging from 38 on 3 June to 24 on 14 June), Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JT, RPR et al.; no evidence of breeding. (Species normally R in summer).
- BLACK-NECKED STILT -- 28, 9 Apr., Pascagoula R. marsh, LJJ; 13, 17 Apr., Pascagoula R. marsh, LJJ; 15, 8 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; present throughout June and July (max. 65 on 29 June), Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JT, RPR et al.; 2 nests with broken eggshells found on 6 June, WCW (destroyed by predators?); active nest with 3 eggs found on 22 July (NP, JK, TK, SW). First nesting record in Miss., and highest count in Miss.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE -- 1 f ad. (breeding plumage), 13 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, RPR (R); 1 m or winter-plumage f, 29-30 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 1 (winter plumage), 30 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, RPR.
- JAEGER SP. -- (probably PARASITIC) 1, 7 Mar., West Ship I., WCW (details on file).
- HERRING GULL -- 1 imm., 14 June, East Ship I., WCW (R in summer); 1 imm., 28 June, Ocean Springs, WCW, JT, RPR; 1 imm., 28 June, Petit Bois I., RPR.
- RING-BILLED GULL -- 50, 23 Mar., Ross Barnett Res., WHT.
- BONAPARTE'S GULL -- (number?), 22 Mar., Hancock Co., JT (D); 3, 23 Mar., Ross Barnett Res., WHT (D).
- GULL-BILLED TERN -- 7, 30 Apr., Buccaneer State Park, JT, LJJ; 5, 8 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 3 or 4 pr courting, 17 to 19 May, Horn I., RPR; present throughout June (max. 10 on 6 June), Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JT, RPR; 6, 28 June, spoil bank W of Petit Bois I.

- (probably nesting), WCW, JT, RPR.
- FORSTER'S TERN -- 40 to 75 present throughout June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JT, RPR.
- COMMON TERN -- 10 (breeding plumage), 17 May, Horn I., RPR; present throughout June (up to 10, some in breeding plumage), Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JT, RPR; 20 (at least 2 nests found), 28 June, spoil bank W of Petit Bois I., WCW, JT, RPR.
- LEAST TERN -- 3, 10 Apr., Gulfport, JT; 13, 12 Apr., Gulfport, JT; hundreds by 16 Apr., Gulfport, JT; First eggs laid, 4 May (early) and first young hatched, 24 May, Gulfport, JT. Numbers up from 2100 pairs (1976) to 2700 pairs (1977) at Gulfport colony; numbers down from 2300 pairs (1976) to 1500 pairs (1977) at Long Beach-Pass Christian, probably because of disturbance by sunbathers (JT). Small colony nesting on roof of building of Navy Seabee base in Gulfport (reported to JT); 3 nests with eggs, 28 June, Petit Bois I., RPR.
- ROYAL TERN -- At least 25 nesting pairs, 28 June, spoil bank W of Petit Bois I., WCW, JT, RPR.
- SANDWICH TERN -- At least 200 nesting pairs (with Royal Terns), spoil bank W of Petit Bois I., 28 June, WCW, JT, RPR.
- CASPIAN TERN -- 1, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (details on file) (R); 17, 30 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW.
- BLACK TERN -- 40 (flying NW in small groups), 9 May, East Ship I., WCW (A); 300 (85% in breeding plumage), 21 May, West Ship I., RPR (N); present throughout June and July (max. 200 on 14 June and 4 July), East Ship I., WCW.
- BLACK SKIMMER -- At least 200 nesting pairs (203 nests counted, some probably missed), 28 June, spoil bank W of Petit Bois I., WCW, JT, RPR (most with eggs, many with young).
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO -- 1, 10 Apr., Ocean Springs, WCW (A); 1 building nest (with persimmon twigs) in boxelder, 24 May, Chotard Landing, WHT; present throughout June and July (max. 3 on 4 July), East Ship I. (no evidence of breeding-habitat not suitable), WCW.
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO -- 1, 31 May, West Ship I., RPR (D).
- BARN OWL -- 1, 7 May, Ocean Springs, WCW; Apr. and May, pair nested in hollow tree on Miss. State Univ. campus and raised at least 2 young, JAJ, WCW et al. (young fledged 23 May, JAJ)
- SCREECH OWL -- Counts of up to 5 birds (on 7 and 19 June), frog survey route (20 5-min stops), Jackson & Harrison Cos., WCW.
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW -- 1, 9 Apr., near Ocean Springs, WCW (A); 1, 9 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A); 1 heard, 14 Apr., Monticello, CB (A); counts of up to 32 birds in June, none in July (except 1 on 29 July), frog survey route, Jackson & Harrison Cos., WCW.
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK -- 1, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, BH, NHu (A); 1, 27 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A); 15 in migrating flock, 14 May, Eagle L., WHT, JAS.
- CHIMNEY SWIFT -- 42, 22 Mar., Hancock Co., JT (A); 2, 28 Mar., near Columbus, WCW (A); 3, 28 Mar., Holmes Co., WHT, JHP (A); (Number?), 29 Mar., Kosciusko, JS (A).
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD -- 1, 15 Mar., Hancock Co., JT (A); 1, 31 Mar., Kosciusko, JS (A).
- PILEATED WOODPECKER -- 20, 28 and 29 Mar., Holmes Co., WHT, JHP (N)

- RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER -- 1 albinistic f, March, Pass Christian, KCK (photo by LG on file at Mississippi State Univ.), bird present for 3rd year, mated to normal male.
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER -- 1, 10 Apr., Ocean Springs, WCW (D).
- EASTERN KINGBIRD -- 2, 24 Mar., Hancock Co., JT (A); 1, 4 Apr., Monticello, CB (A); (Number?), 6 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A); 1, 7 Apr., Starkville, WCW (A); 50, 11 May, East Ship I., WCW (one flock of 40 landed in trees about 19:30) (N).
- GRAY KINGBIRD -- 1 or 2 present through most of summer, Horn I. ranger station (reported to RPR).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER -- 1, 14 Mar., Horn I., DMB (R); 1, early Apr. to first week of July, Tupelo, Mrs. WTW (R - see article this issue); 1 ad. on nest, 10 and 11 June, Lawrence, Newton Co., WHT, ACT, JP, CBe, FW, RD (see article this issue; 2nd nesting locality in Miss.).
- GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER -- 1, 12 Apr., Jackson, WHT (A).
- EASTERN PHOEBE -- 1, 29 Apr., near Rienzi, Alcorn Co., REP, BMDP (D-possibly breeding?).
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER -- 1, 19 May, Noxubee NWR, WOS field trip.
- ACADIAN FLYCATCHER -- 2, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A).
- EASTERN WOOD PEWEE -- 2, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A).
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER -- 1, 4 May, near Kosciusko, JS (R).
- TREE SWALLOW -- 1, 25 Mar., Hinds Co., WHT, JHP (A); 75, 27 Mar., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW (A); 50, 28 Mar., Holmes Co., WHT (A); (Number?), 28 Mar., Kosciusko, JS (A); 40, 6 Apr. L. Mary Crawford, CB.
- BANK SWALLOW -- 3, 22 Mar., Hancock Co., JT (E); about 15, 26 Apr., Kosciusko sewage ponds, JS (A); 1, 19 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW (A).
- ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- 5, 24 Mar., Hancock Co., JT (A); 5, 27 Mar., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW (A); 1 excavating nest, 29 Mar., Yazoo Co., WHT, JHP.
- BARN SWALLOW -- several, 20 Mar., Gulfport, JT (A); 1, 21 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 1, 22 Mar., near Clinton, WHT (A); 25, 22 Mar., Hancock Co., JT; (Number?), 28 Mar., Kosciusko, JS (A); 40 plus nests with eggs & young under one culvert, 16 May, Natchez Trace Parkway, Claiborne Co., WHT (N).
- CLIFF SWALLOW -- 1, 21 May, West Ship I., RPR (D).
- PURPLE MARTIN -- 2, 19 Feb., Jackson, WHT (A); 2 m, 28 Feb., Noxubee NWR, JS (A); (Number?), 2 Mar., Monticello, CB (A); about 150, 6 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (N); 100+, 27 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ; 49, 5 June, Fontainebleau BBS route, WCW (3rd commonest species on route).
- BLUE JAY -- 2 small flocks seen flying NE (possible migration), 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- FISH CROW -- 1, 21 May, Noxubee NWR, CSR (WOS field trip); first record for Refuge (R).
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 1, 10 Apr., Ocean Springs, WCW (D); 1, 11 May, East Ship I., WCW (L).
- BROWN CREEPER -- 2, 27 Mar., Choctaw L., WCW (D).
- WINTER WREN -- 1, 28 Mar., Holmes Co., WHT, JHP (D).
- LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN -- 1, 25 to 28 Apr., Kosciusko sewage ponds, JS (A); 1, 4 May, near Kosciusko, JS; 1 singing, 13 July, Pearl R. marsh, U.S. Hwy. 90, just E of La. border, RPR.
- SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN -- 1, 11 May, East Ship I., WCW (L).

- GRAY CATBIRD -- 1 m, 24 Apr., Starkville, WCW (A); 1, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, BH, NH (A).
- WOOD THRUSH -- 1, 6 Apr., L. Mary Crawford, CB (A); 1, 9 Apr., Jackson, WHT (A); 1, 10 Apr., Ocean Springs, WCW (A); 1, 11 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A).
- Catharus SPP. -- Large migration observed, about 16:00 to 18:00, 10 May, East Ship I., WCW. Several groups dropped from sky; others heard calling overhead as they continued flying northward. At least 100 birds seen and heard altogether; 7 Swainson's, 3 Gray-cheeked, and 5 Veeries positively identified.
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH -- 3, 28 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 1, 31 May, West Ship I., RPR (L).
- VEERY -- 1, 27 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH (A); 1, 28 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 1, 29 Apr., Gulfport, JT (A); 1, 4 May, near Kosciusko, JS (A).
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- several, 20 Mar., Noxubee NWR, PR (A); 1, 22 Mar., Bovina, WHT (A); (Number?), 1 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A).
- GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET -- 2, 21 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (D).
- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- 1, 23 Apr., Dorman L., WCW (D).
- CEDAR WAXWING -- 17, 27 Mar., Monticello, CB; 50, 3 Apr., Jackson, WHT; 8, 12 May, East Ship I., WCW (D).
- LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE -- 2 ads. feeding 3 flying young, 15 May, Raymond, WHT.
- STARLING -- 1, 4 and 5 July, East Ship I., WCW (perhaps first record for offshore islands, although species nests on Deer I.).
- WHITE-EYED VIREO -- 1, 21 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 1, 25 Mar., Jackson, WHT (A); 1, 30 Mar., Kosciusko, JS (A).
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO -- 1, 26 Mar., Noxubee NWR, JAJ (A); 3, 28 and 29 Mar., Holmes & Yazoo Cos., WHT (A).
- RED-EYED VIREO -- 1, 4 Apr., Ocean Springs, WCW (A); 2 (pr), m fed f on nest 15' up in dogwood, 6 June, N of Bovina, WHT.
- WARBLING VIREO -- 2 (pr), m singing on nest, 14 May, Collins Camp, Albemarle L., WHT, JAS.
- BLACK-AND WHITE WARBLER -- 1, 15 Mar., Hancock Co., JT (A); 1, 20 Mar., Noxubee NWR, PR (A).
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER -- 1, 15 Mar., Hancock Co., JT (A).
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER -- 1, 17 May, Hattiesburg, LJJ, WCW; 2 (pr) with nest containing 2 young, 23 May, near Bovina, WHT; 3 m, 28 May, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1 m singing, 20 to 22 June, Merrill, WCW, RPR (R); ad. incubating 2 eggs, 27 June, Clark Cr. (Wilkinson Co.), WHT, JHP, JH, BQ (see note, this issue).
- WORM-EATING WARBLER -- Many, 27 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH; 2, 29 Apr., Gulfport, JT; 1 m singing, 4 and 6 June, N of Bovina, WHT, MG (R).
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER -- 1, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 1, 29 Apr., Gulfport, JT.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER -- 2, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); few, 27 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH; 1, 8 May, 3 mi. S of Bolton, WHT.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 1, 10 Apr., Ocean Springs, WCW (D).
- NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER -- 2, 21 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 11, 22 Mar., Hancock Co., JT; 2, 25 Mar., Jackson, WHT, JHP (A); 2 pr nest-building, 29 Mar., Holmes & Yazoo Cos., WHT, JHP; common, 30 Mar., Noxubee NWR, JAJ; 1 m, 9 Mar., East Ship I., WCW (A).
- YELLOW WARBLER -- 2, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 2, 11 May, Gulfport, JT.

- MAGNOLIA WARBLER -- 1, 7 Apr., Mississippi State Univ., MW; (Number?), 29 Apr., Gulfport, JT; 2 m, 10 May, East Ship I., WCW.
- CAPE MAY WARBLER -- 1 m, 10 May, East Ship I., WCW (R); 1 m, 25 May, East Ship I., RPR (R,L).
- AUDUBON'S (YELLOW-RUMPED) WARBLER -- 1 m (with about 40 Myrtle Warblers at feeder), late Feb. to 20 Mar., Gulfport, JT (also JAJ, WCW, etc.) (R).
- MYRTLE (YELLOW-RUMPED) WARBLER -- 5, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (D); 1, 26 Apr., Waukomis L., near CoFinth, REP (D); many, 27 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH (D).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER -- 1 m, 27 Mar., Choctaw L., WCW (A); 3, 29 Apr., Gulfport, JT; 3 m, 10 May, East Ship I., WCW.
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER -- 1 m, 13 May, Gulfport, JT.
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER -- 1, 9 Mar., East Ship I., WCW (A); 4, 21 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A).
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER -- 1, 20 May, Noxubee NWR, AC (WOS field trip) (D).
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER -- 10 to 12 May (max. 4 on 11 May), East Ship I., WCW; 1 m, 22 May, Noxubee NWR, BBC, DP, MWi (WOS field trip).
- BLACKPOLL WARBLER -- 1 m, 26 Apr., Starkville, WCW (A); 1, 27 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH (A); 6, 29 Apr., Gulfport, JT; 1 m, 10 May, East Ship I., WCW; 1 m, 15 May, Buccaneer State Park, JT, WCW.
- PRAIRIE WARBLER -- 1, 3 Apr., near Ocean Springs, WCW (A); common in southern Jackson Co. (14 on Fontainebleau BBS route, up from 10 in 1976), although did not breed in area in 1940's, WCW.
- PALM WARBLER -- several, 24 Mar., Hancock Co., JT; 5, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH -- 1, 10 and 11 May, East Ship I., WCW.
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH -- 3, 21 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 1, 29 Mar., Kosciusko, JS (A).
- KENTUCKY WARBLER -- 1, 15 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A); 3, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 2 (pr) with nest containing 4 newly-hatched young, 23 May, Bovina, WHT.
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT -- 1, 21 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A); 6, 23 Apr., Dorman L., WCW (A).
- HOODED WARBLER -- 1 m, 15 Mar., Hancock Co., JT (A); 2, 29 Mar., Yazoo Co., WHT (A).
- AMERICAN REDSTART -- 5, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ, WCW (A); 2 singing m, 22 June, Merrill, WCW (R).
- HOUSE SPARROW -- May, pr apparently nesting for 2nd year in a row in revolving service station sign, Starkville, WCW (see Mississippi Kite 6:7-8, 1976).
- BOBOLINK -- several, 20 Apr., Scott Plantation, Bolivar Co., NH (A); 1 m, 27 Apr., Starkville, WCW (A); 10, 28 Apr., Miss. State Univ. South Farm, WCW; hundreds, 5 May, Lyman, SH (N); 100+, 7 May, Starkville, JAJ.
- ORCHARD ORIOLE -- 6, 15 Mar., Hancock Co., JT (A); 1, 3 Apr., Jackson, WHT (A); 1, 12 Apr., Starkville, WCW (A); 1, 20 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A); 2 (pr) with nest 10' up on pecan limb, 4 June, Eagle L., WHT, MG.
- NORTHERN ORIOLE -- 1, 3 Apr., Jackson, WHT (E); 1, 20 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A); 1, 23 Apr., Dorman L., WCW (A); numerous, 3 active nests seen, 14 May, Eagle and Albemarle L. areas, WHT, JAS; 2 (pr)

- with nest 20' up on cottonwood limb, 4 June, Eagle L., WHT.
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD -- 5, 4 Mar., Starkville, WCW (D).
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD -- 1, 2 Mar., Barnett Res., Madison Co., WHT, JHP (D).
- SCARLET TANAGER -- 1 m, 8 Apr., Wall Doxey State Park, JHE (E); 5 m, (1 molting), 27 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH (A); 1 f, 10 and 11 May, East Ship I., WCW; 1 m, 26 May, Jackson, WHT, JHP (D); 1 m, 11 June, 10 mi. W of Corinth, BBC, LCC (R).
- SUMMER TANAGER -- 2 m, 20 Mar., Gulfport, JT (E); 1 m, 15 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ; 1 m, 29 Apr., near Rienzi, Alcorn Co., REP, BMDP.
- ROSE-BREADED GROSBEEK -- 1, 20 Apr., Starkville, WCW (A); 40, 29 Apr., Gulfport, JT (N); 5, 11 May, East Ship I., WCW.
- BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK -- 1 m, 4 Apr., at feeder in Vicksburg, Mr. & Mrs. FRB, MBS; watched for 40 min., as close as 8 feet (C).
- BLUE GROSBEEK -- 1, 16 Apr., Monticello, CB (A); 1 m, 18 Apr., Starkville, WCW (A); 1, 24 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A); Common in southern Jackson Co. (8 on Fontainebleau BBS route, 5 June), although did not breed there in 1940's, WCW; 1 m (straggler from mainland?), 15 June, East Ship I., WCW.
- INDIGO BUNTING -- 1, 16 Apr., Starkville, WCW (A); (number?), 18 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (A); numerous small flocks, 30 Apr., Hinds Co., WHT, ACT,
- PAINTED BUNTING -- 1 imm. m singing, nr. Clermont Harbor, 15 May, JT, WCW (R); 1 m singing, 3 June, Bellefontaine Pt., WCW (R).
- DICKCISSEL -- several, 20 Apr., Scott Plantation, Bolivar Co., NH (A); flocks of migrants in ryegrass pasture, 30 Apr., near Bolton, WHT (A); 1 m singing, 14 May, Eagle L., WHT, JAS; 3, 19 May, Tupelo fish hatchery, BBC, LCC; 5, 21 May, 7 mi E of Starkville, BBC, LCC; 8, 24 May, nr. Golden Triangle Regional Airport, WCW; 1, 10 June, Tupelo, BBC, LCC.
- PURPLE FINCH -- 1, 25 Mar., Starkville, WCW (D); 1, 25 Mar., Jackson, WHT (D).
- AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -- many, (several flocks), 27 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH; 2, 20 May, Noxubee NWR, WCW (WOS field trip), (R in summer).
- SAVANNAH SPARROW -- 2, 30 Apr., near Bolton, WHT, ACT (D); 3, 8 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW (D); 1, 12 May, East Ship I., WCW (D).
- VESPER SPARROW -- 1, 5 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ.
- LARK SPARROW -- 1 m singing, 24 May, nr. Mayhew, WCW.
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW -- Common in De Soto Nat. For., N of Ocean Springs, June-July, WCW.
- DARK-EYED JUNCO -- (number?), 5 Apr., Monticello, CB (D); 2, 7 Apr., nr. Starkville, WCW (D); 1, 13 Apr., Gulfport, JT (L).
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW -- 1 ad., 23 Apr., Dorman L., WCW (D); 1, 30 Apr., nr. Clinton, WHT, ACT (D).
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- (number?), 26 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (D); 5, 28 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (D).
- FOX SPARROW -- 1, 7 Mar., Kosciusko, JS (D).
- SWAMP SPARROW -- 5, 16 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (D); 1, 26 Apr., Kosciusko, JS (D).
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR -- 150, 20 Jan., Jonestown, JHa (N).

Key to Observers.-- AC = Alexander Cruz; ACT = Annie C. Turcotte; BBC = Ben B. Coffey, Jr.; BH = Bill Hughes; BMDP = Beulah M. D'Olive Price; BQ = Bill Quisenberry; CB = Carl Bauer; CBe = Christine Berry; CSR = Chandler S. Robbins; DMB = Donald M. Bradburn; DP = David Pitts; FRB = Fred R. Brown; FW = Frances Wills; JAJ = Jerome A. Jackson; JAS = Jackson Audubon Society; JH = Jack Herring; JHa = Jack Haynes; JHE = John H. Embury; JHL = John H. Laney; JHP = John H. Phares; JK = Jim Kisner; JP = Jarvis Parker; JS = James Sanders; JT = Judith Toups; JV = Jake Valentine; KCK = Katherine C. Koerner; KL = Kristie Link; LCC = Lula C. Coffey; LG = Leonard Glade; LJG = Larry J. Gates; MBS = Martha B. Skelton; MG = Michael Grabill; MH = Martha Hays; ML = Mark Lewis; MT = Melvin Tingle; MW = Martha Ward; MWi = Morris Williams; NH = Nona Herbert; NHu = Nellie Hughes; NP = Nell Powers; PR = Pat Ramey; RD = Ruth Downey; REP = Richard E. Price, Jr.; RPR = Robert P. Russell; SH = Sophie Hatten; SW = Sandy Whitacre; TK = Tommy Kisner; WCW = Wayne C. Weber; WHT = William H. Turcotte; WJW = Wendy J. Weber; WOS = Wilson Ornithological Society; WTW = W. T. Watson.

Key to Localities.-- Albemarle L., Issaquena Co.; Archer I., Chicot Co., Ark. (near Greenville, Miss.); Bay St. Louis, Hancock Co.; Bellefontaine Point, Jackson Co.; Biloxi, Harrison Co.; Bolton, Hinds Co.; Bovina, Warren Co.; Buccaneer State Park, Hancock Co.; Choctaw L., Choctaw Co.; Chotard Landing, Issaquena Co.; Clermont Harbor, Hancock Co.; Clinton, Hinds Co.; Columbus, Lowndes Co.; Corinth, Alcorn Co.; Deer I., Harrison Co.; De Soto Natl. Forest, Harrison and Jackson Cos.; D'Iberville, Harrison Co.; Dorman Lake, Oktibbeha Co.; Eagle Lake, Warren Co.; East Ship I., Harrison Co.; Fontainebleau BBS route, Jackson Co.; Golden Triangle Regional Airport, Lowndes Co.; Gulfport, Harrison Co.; Hattiesburg, Forrest Co.; Horn I., Jackson Co.; Jackson, Hinds Co.; Jonestown, Coahoma Co.; Kosciusko, Attala Co.; Lake Mary Crawford, Lawrence Co.; Long Beach, Harrison Co.; Lucedale, George Co.; Lyman, Harrison Co.; Mayhew, Lowndes Co.; Merrill, George Co.; Mississippi State Univ., Oktibbeha Co.; Monticello, Lawrence Co.; Newton, Newton Co.; Noxubee NWR, Oktibbeha, Noxubee, and Winston Cos.; Ocean Springs, Jackson Co.; Pascagoula R. marsh, Jackson Co.; Pass Christian, Harrison Co.; Pearl R. marsh, Hancock Co.; Pearl R. swamp, Hancock Co.; Petit Bois I., Jackson Co.; Raymond, Hinds Co.; Ross Barnett Reservoir, Madison and Rankin Cos.; Starkville, Oktibbeha Co.; Tennessee Bar, Issaquena Co.; Tupelo, Lee Co.; Vicksburg, Warren Co.; Wade, Jackson Co.; Wall Doxey State Park, Marshall Co.; Waukomis L., Alcorn Co.; Waveland, Hancock Co.; West Ship I., Harrison Co.

Note to Contributors: Please send the Editor your sightings for the fall migration (1 August to 30 November) and the winter season (1 December to 28 February) as soon as possible after the close of the respective season. If time permits, we will forward your more significant sightings to American Birds as well as publishing them in the Mississippi Kite. For all records, please specify the number of birds, date, exact locality, and observer(s). Good quality black-and-white photographs for use in the Mississippi Kite will be welcomed.

For unusual records (generally any species preceded by a "4" on

the Mississippi check-list, or out-of-season records of other species), supply as much detail as possible, including a detailed description of the bird(s) made before consulting a field guide, and the conditions of observation (e.g., bird watched through 10X binoculars for 20 min, at distances of 30 to 100 feet). If at all possible, such birds should be photographed or corroborated by other observers.

Not all records received can be published. Those of major interest are: arrival and departure dates for migrants, records of unusual species or unusual numbers of birds, or noteworthy breeding records. All breeding records, for any species of bird, are desired for our nest record card file.

Sincere thanks to all of you who sent in records for this issue. The increase in the number of observers sending in reports is gratifying, and we hope this trend will continue. We can only publish what you send us!

Christmas Bird Counts.-- Would all compilers of Christmas Bird Counts please send us a complete copy of their results as soon as possible after making the count? Please send a complete photocopy of the form you send to American Birds, including field descriptions of any unusual species reported, or send us a written transcript thereof. We hope to make the Christmas Bird Count summary an annual feature of the Mississippi Kite, and your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Reviews

Report of the Pan-American Society for the Protection of Birds. P.A.S.P.B. Committee on the Killing of Wild Birds for Scientific and Educational Purposes (David Stirling, Chairman). 1976. 14 pp., mimeo. Available for \$1.00 from Carroll E. Pinckard, 6601 Walther Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21206.

The scientific collecting of birds - especially of extralimital vagrants (birds outside their normal range) - has long been a major issue of contention between amateur and professional ornithologists. This report, which outlines the opinions of a bird-protection group toward current bird-collecting laws and practices, reviews and criticizes an earlier report of an American Ornithologists' Union committee (Auk 92 (3) Suppl.: 1A-27A, 1975), and then gives its own recommendations. Despite its authorship, the P.A.S.P.B. report is conciliatory and constructive in tone, and praises parts of the A.O.U. report, especially the A.O.U.'s proposed "Code of Ethics" for collectors.

The P.A.S.P.B. report outlines both the scientific and ethical considerations involved in killing birds, and then goes on to recommend tighter restrictions on collecting of birds, and representation of laymen as well as scientists in the process of deciding whether or not to issue a collecting permit. It notes that in 1972, only 31 permits to collect birds were issued in Britain compared to 2849 in the United States, and that attitudes of even the professionals to collecting in Britain are quite different from those in the U.S. (perhaps a sign of things to come here?). It advocates the establishment of nationwide Records Committees in the U.S. and Canada (like the one existing in Britain) to review sight records of extralimital birds, which might eliminate much of the supposed need to collect "first records" for particular states and provinces.

This report ought to be required reading for anyone interested in the collecting of wild birds.--Wayne C. Weber, Box Z, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762.

Collected Papers in Avian Paleontology Honoring the 90th Birthday of Alexander Wetmore. Edited by Storrs L. Olson. Smithsonian Contributions to Paleobiology No. 27, 1976: xxvi + 211 pp., 91 figures, 38 tables. No price stated.

This volume was published as a tribute to Alexander Wetmore, one of North America's best-known ornithologists, and for many years one of the world's leading experts on fossil birds. Wetmore is perhaps best known to amateur ornithologists as author of the "Wetmore sequence", the familiar system of classifying North American birds which places loons at the beginning of the list and sparrows at the end. However, Wetmore's most outstanding work has probably been in paleontology, in which he has published over 150 papers since his first in 1917. Although retired since 1952, Wetmore is still quite active, and his monumental four-volume series

on the birds of Panama is now nearing completion.

This publication contains, as well as a list of Wetmore's papers on fossil birds and an appraisal by Storrs Olson of his contributions to their study, 18 papers on a wide variety of subjects. These range in time from Archaeopteryx, the oldest known fossil bird (from the Jurassic period, about 130 million years ago) to birds that coexisted with man. Most of the papers will be of little interest to amateur ornithologists, as they consist mainly of detailed anatomical descriptions, with endless photographs of fossil bones. However, startling discoveries are described in two papers about Pleistocene fossil birds (less than 1 million years old). One paper, by Oscar Arredondo, describes 5 fossil species of giant birds of prey recently found in Cuban caves: an enormous, flightless owl nearly 4 feet tall, 2 species of giant barn owls, an eagle larger than any living species, and a vulture the size of an Andean Condor (10-foot wingspread). Just as remarkable is an account by Victor Morejohn of a flightless species of diving duck whose remains were found in California Indian middens less than 4000 years old, and which was probably hunted to extinction by Indians. Certainly, there is still plenty of room for new discoveries in avian paleontology!--Wayne C. Weber, Box Z, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762

Waterfowl in North America. By Paul A. Johnsgard, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana, 1975: 575 pp., several black-and-white and color photographs, drawings and maps. \$25.00.

This large volume summarizes much of what is known concerning the ecology of the ducks, geese, and swans of North America. It is well-organized and written in a lucid style. For each species Johnsgard includes a brief summary of colloquial names, range, subspecies, measurements, and weights; these are followed by descriptive accounts telling how to identify the species in the hand and in the field, how to age and sex the birds, where and when to find them, and what is known of their general ecology. This book is very useful and should be in public libraries and in the library of anyone interested in waterfowl. Other reviewers have also given the book high marks. However, in spite of its usefulness, there are some faults. Productions of this nature often are tied up with a printer for long periods and this may have happened with Waterfowl of North America since there are only 3-4 literature citations more recent than 1972. The 25 page bibliography of earlier references should be very useful to students of waterfowl. Faults more serious than the lack of review of recent literature are several errors with regard to species which occur in Mississippi. For example, the Shoveller, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, and others are much more widespread in Mississippi in winter than indicated by Johnsgard. Similarly, the Hooded Merganser nests in many areas of the state (e.g., at Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge and along the Tombigbee River in the east) other than the narrow area along

the Mississippi River indicated in this book. Oldsquaws are well known from coastal Mississippi and have been shot by hunters in the central part of the state, yet Johnsgard shows them wintering no closer than coastal North Carolina. Examination of any of several state bird books or recent issues of American Birds for southeastern states would have provided the data necessary to more accurately depict the true ranges of these species. Hopefully, these deficiencies will be corrected in a revision.--Jerome A. Jackson, Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762.

Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds. By J. Fred Denton, W. Wilson Baker, Leslie B. Davenport, Jr., Milton N. Hopkins, Jr., and Chandler S. Robbins; Georgia Ornithological Society, Occasional Publication No. 6: 60 pp. Available from Georgia Ornithological Society, 755 Ellsworth Drive, N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30318. \$2.00 (papercover).

This small book includes 351 species of birds which have been found in Georgia. For each species there is a one or two sentence statement identifying the status and dates of occurrence of the species in the state. Only printed pages are numbered, but each page is printed on only one side. Thus there is ample room for the observer to further annotate his copy. The book is pocket size and should be of great use to Georgia birders. It would be nice if other states had this type of checklist available.--Jerome A. Jackson, Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762.

The Audubon Society Book of Wild Birds. By Les Line and Franklin Russell, Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Publishers, New York, 1976: 292 pp., over 200 color photographs. \$35.00.

Here is a "coffee table" book of an unusual nature. It includes over 200 outstanding color photographs of birds from all over the world, is printed on very heavy paper, and has a text printed in large type. If you didn't recognize the name, Les Line is editor of Audubon magazine - this book shares the quality we all appreciate in Audubon. Each of the fifteen chapters briefly discusses the strategies used by a group of birds in coping with their environment. This is not an ornithology text book, but there is a lot to be learned about birds in the essays presented here. The photographs by 66 of the world's best known wildlife photographers make the book a delight to thumb through. The text provides interesting reading for 10 minutes or as long as you want. My only reservation is the price - ouch! --Jerome A. Jackson, Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762.

The Bird-Watchers' Book. Edited by John Gooders, David & Charles, North Pomfret, Vermont, 1975: 173 pp., numerous black-and-white photographs. \$8.95 (cloth bound).

The Second Bird-Watchers' Book. Edited by John Gooders, David & Charles, North Pomfret, Vermont, 1976: 159 pp., numerous black-and-white photographs. \$9.95 (cloth bound).

The Third Bird-Watchers' Book. Edited by John Gooders, David & Charles, North Pomfret, Vermont, 1976: 160 pp., numerous black-and-white photographs. \$9.95 (cloth bound).

These books each contain a series of chapters written by prominent bird watchers. Most of the birdwatchers are from England, or are at least British in origin and there are few references to North American birds. However, the essays are generally well written and the American reader will readily recognize many of the birds - or at least will know their American counterparts. The Bird-Watchers' Book includes, among 14 chapters, the adventures of an expedition to Spitzbergen to study Barnacle Geese, an account of attempts to see how many birds can be identified in Britain in one day, detailed observations of the European Goldfinch, articles on bird conservation, and suggestions of things that an amateur can do to further the study of ornithology.

The Second Bird-Watchers' Book includes more articles on bird protection, seeking out rare birds, bird-banding, the story of bird migration across the Sahara, studies of Gannets and boobies, and an essay on the relationship between hawks and man. There are 11 chapters in this volume.

The Third Bird-Watchers' Book includes 13 chapters dealing with such subjects as the English names of birds, the problem of dealing with birds affected by oil spills, the flyway concept, the birds of the swamplands of Uruguay, and titmice in the garden.

All of the chapters are written for the enjoyment of the amateur. They are not technical treatises. The photographs are generally well done and complement the chapters. I think this is a fine series, but would like to see chapters by some North American birders.--Jerome A. Jackson, Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762.

Birds of the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic. By George E. Watson, American Geophysical Union, Washington, D.C., 1975: 350 pp., many black-and-white line drawings, 11 color plates, maps. \$15.00 (cloth bound)

If you're heading south for the winter - way south - here's the field guide you'll need. This guide presents identification and distributional information for all of the birds known from the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic. Most of the birds found in this region are seabirds, and the guide is intended to help passengers on ships identify the birds they observe. In

addition to being a fieldguide, this book summarizes much of what we know about South Polar birds. It's an interesting book to thumb through and would be a good reference to have in larger libraries. In addition to the ornithological information, there is a good deal of description of the islands found in the region and a useful 23 page bibliography.--Jerome A. Jackson, Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762.

Finding Birds in Mexico. By Ernest P. Edwards. Ernest P. Edwards, Sweet Briar, Virginia, 1968: 282 pp., maps, black-and-white plates, and 4 color plates. (hardback)

1976 Supplement to Finding Birds in Mexico. By Ernest P. Edwards. Ernest P. Edwards, Sweet Briar, Virginia, 1976: 135 pp., maps. (paperback)
\$8.00 for both books (not sold separately). Order from Ernest P. Edwards, Box AQ, Sweet Briar, Va. 24595.

These bird-finding guides are for Mexico what Pettingill's guides are for the United States. They tell you where to go in Mexico to find particular species and they tell you what species you will find in specific areas. In short, they are indispensable aids for the neophyte bird-watcher in Mexico. Finding Birds in Mexico begins with a description of Mexico, the habitats and bird associations found there, and the roads that will get you where you want to go. Beyond the introductory chapters is an alphabetically arranged gazetteer of bird-finding localities. Each locality description includes comments on climate, habitats, and bird species to be found. The accounts are easy to read and often include very specific directions to good birding spots. For example, the following passage from page 47 for Acapulco will give you the tone and usefulness of the book:

"To find one of the most favorable areas ... mark your mileage at the statue of Diana which is at the junction of the Mexico City highway with the Costero Miguel Aleman, then proceed long the Costero away from downtown Acapulco. Go 2.9 miles, passing the Naval Base and climbing part way up a long hill, and watch for a not-very-noticeable road which branches off to the right at an easy angle and descends somewhat. This is before the main road reaches the Hotel Las Brisas. Follow the narrow branch road (watch out for wash-outs) for 0.7 of a mile to a place where you can park and proceed on foot."

Edwards then lists the species most likely to be seen - including such things as Orange-fronted Parakeets, White-fronted Parrots, Squirrel Cuckoos, Citreoline Trogons, and others that will make you want to start planning your trip to Mexico!

The plates in Finding Birds in Mexico will be helpful, but you'll probably also want to take two or more of the Mexican field guides with you.

The 1976 Supplement to Finding Birds in Mexico brings the earlier book up-to-date by including bird name changes that have taken place and by noting the changes that have taken place in the Mexican landscape. A useful aspect of this supplement is a comparison of the common names of birds that are used in the Peterson-Chalif and Edwards field guides. Unlike North American Birds, many different common names have been used for some species and this has led to confusion for the uninitiated.

In summary, if you are planning a trip to Mexico, I would highly recommend getting these guides to help you with your plans and to use as guide books once you get south of the border.--Jerome A. Jackson, Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762.

Birds and Their Ways. By Alexander Dawes Du Bois with Charlotte A. Du Bois. T. S. Denison & Company, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1976: 184 pp., numerous black-and-white photographs. \$8.95 (hardback)

Birds and Their Ways is a book that was apparently written by piecing together excerpts from a naturalists' journal. It reads somewhat like the writings of John Burroughs and other early naturalists. Part 1 describes the sequential events of the breeding season and the strategies different kinds of birds use in finding a mate, building a nest, and raising their young. Part 2 includes a series of essays, each of which deals with a single species. The birds included in these essays are the Eastern Bluebird, Spotted Sandpiper, Downy Woodpecker, Purple Finch, Common Loon, Whip-poor-will, Horned Lark, Long-billed Curlew, Horned Grebe, Short-eared Owl, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and McCown's Longspur. I mention these birds because, while not written in a scientific style, the author's original observations have not all been published in scientific journals and they might be of interest and use to students working on these species today. The usefulness of the book would have been greatly enhanced if it had been indexed. As it is, Birds and Their Ways is the sort of book one would like to get comfortable in front of a fireplace with.--Jerome A. Jackson, Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762

Bird Taxidermy. By James N. Harrison. David & Charles, North Pomfret, Vermont, 1977: 67 pp., line drawings and photographs. \$6.95 (hardback).

Here is an inexpensive and well illustrated handbook for the aspiring bird taxidermist. It includes details of how to prepare a scientific study skin as well as how to prepare a life-like mount. The author is British and the English used is British - some of the supplies listed may

confuse American readers: for example, for wood-wool read wood shavings; for cotton-wool read cotton. I don't recommend the use of arsenic compounds as a preservative for scientific specimens - they're too dangerous to work with and not needed if the specimens are kept in a modern bug-proof specimen case that is regularly fumigated. The use of bleaches to clean skins is also frowned upon today because of the effect these can have on the subtle coloring of birds.--Jerome A. Jackson, Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762.

Vertebrates of Florida. By Henry M. Stevenson. University Presses of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 1976: 607 pp., line drawings, black-and-white photographs, maps, keys. \$35.00 (hardback).

The compilation of distributional and taxonomic information for the birds of a state is an enormous task that can be accomplished only over a period of years. That one man could assemble this type of information for not only birds, but for all of the vertebrates of a state is truly impressive. Vertebrates of Florida includes keys, distributional information, and descriptions of all vertebrates known from Florida. This is not a field guide; very few species are illustrated in any way. The value of this book will be its usefulness as a reference - as such, it should prove most valuable for the vertebrates other than birds since the bird species in Florida are generally well known and documented in other books.

In addition to the keys and descriptions, Stevenson includes a chapter on the preparation of scientific specimens of vertebrates. This should be useful to students. There is also a brief glossary and a bibliography of literature on Florida vertebrates. The bibliography does not include much old literature, but concentrates primarily on references published since 1954. A useful feature of the book is the thorough index. Even the bibliography is indexed!

While this book is about Florida vertebrates, many of the same species occur in Mississippi and other southeastern states. Stevenson's maps include the entire ranges of species, not just their ranges in Florida. Thus the book should prove useful to vertebrate biologists throughout the southeast.--Jerome A. Jackson, Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762.

Minutes of the 1977 Spring Meeting of the
Mississippi Ornithological Society
20 May 1977

The annual spring meeting of the Mississippi Ornithological Society was held on 20 May 1977 at Lee Hall on the campus of Mississippi State University in Starkville, Ms. President Walter Davis called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Secretary Steve Peterson presented the minutes of the last meeting which were accepted as read.

In the absence of Evelyn Tackett, Treasurer, Walter Davis read the financial report. The report was accepted as read.

Under old business, a brief discussion took place on the status of the Heronry at Cliftonville; it was then voted to renew the lease.

In new business, the members voted to assume the costs of Mississippi State Bird Lists and additional copies of the Mississippi Kite which were included in the orientation folders for the joint Wilson and Mississippi Ornithological Society convention.

President Walter Davis commended the WOS local committee, staffed by local members of MOS, Oktibbeha Audubon, and the Department of Zoology at MSU, for the fine manner in which the joint meeting had been planned and executed. The membership endorsed the commendation with a healthy round of applause.

Carl Bauer, chairman of the Nominations Committee, was called upon to present the slate of officers proposed for 1977-78. Nominations were called for from the floor; there being none, the proposed slate of officers was accepted by acclamation and is as follows:

President, Stephen Peterson, Jackson; Vice President, Evelyn Tackett, Jackson; Secretary, Judy Toups, Gulfport; Treasurer, Marita Smith, Clinton; Editor, Jerome Jackson, Starkville.

President Steve Peterson assumed his new duties at this juncture in the meeting. Steve then complimented Walter Davis, Carl Bauer, Evelyn Tackett and Jerry Jackson for the fine leadership they have provided to the Mississippi Ornithological Society.

A discussion about time and locale of the fall meeting was brief, and no action was taken at that time. The meeting then adjourned.

An evening of wildlife films was presented. The film "At the Crossroads", an excellent documentary on endangered species, featured in part the work of Dr. Jerry Jackson on the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. A film on the Atchafalaya Basin followed...a graphic exploration of this ecologically sensitive area of Louisiana. A delightful film on African weaver birds concluded the program.--Judy Toups, Secretary.

Mississippi Ornithological Society
Financial Statement
May 5, 1977

Balance in checking account March 20, 1976	\$494.45
<u>Deposited:</u>	
Dues	508.00
Checklists sold	20.96
Mississippi Kites sold	<u>26.10</u>
Total deposited	555.06
 <u>Disbursements</u>	
Letterhead stationery	6.95
Mississippi Kite (2 issues)	369.80
Postage to Editor	17.32
Expenses of Treasurer*	42.16
Service Fees	<u>3.95</u>
Total Disbursements	440.18
Balance in checking account May 3, 1977	609.33
Balance in savings account March 20, 1976 (Magnolia State Savings & Loan Association)	1421.53
Interest earned	79.77
Life memberships deposited	<u>475.00</u>
Balance in savings account May 3, 1977	1976.30
 Total assets May 3, 1977	 2585.63

* Itemized list of expenses attached to report to President and also in treasurer's records.

Evelyn Tackett, Treasurer

THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

Mississippi Ornithological Society
Organized 30 April 1955

Officers

President:	Stephen W. Peterson 2127 E. Northside Drive Jackson, MS 39211
Vice President:	Evelyn D. Tackett 744 Oakwood Jackson, MS 39202
Secretary:	Judy Toups 4 Hartford Place Gulfport, MS 39501
Treasurer:	Marita Smith 204 Vernon Road Clinton, MS 39056
Editor:	Jerome A. Jackson P.O. Drawer Z Mississippi State, MS 39762

MOS Memberships

Honorary	No dues
Life	\$50.00
Sustaining (annually or more)	10.00
Active (annually)	3.00
Corresponding (annually)	3.00
Library Subscriptions	5.00
Junior (students under 17)	2.00

Membership and subscription dues should be sent to the treasurer, Miss Marita Smith, 204 Vernon Road, Clinton, Ms. 39056. The Mississippi Kite is currently published irregularly and is sent to all classes of membership.