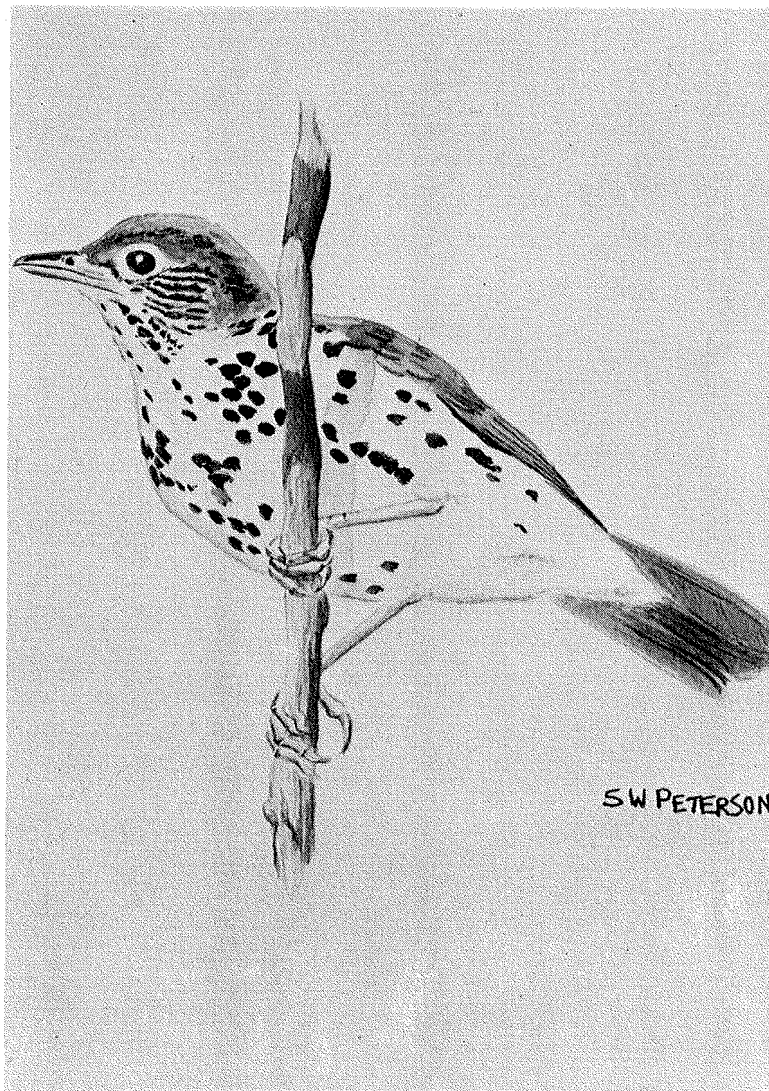


THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

Vol. 8 (1)

June 1978



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

Vol. 8, No. 1

June 1978

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Front Cover: Wood Thrush. Painting by Stephen W. Peterson.

A Red Phalarope in Hattiesburg, Mississippi

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On Sunday, 9 October 1977, we observed a Red Phalarope (Phalaropus fulicarius) swimming in one of the Hattiesburg Sewage Lagoon ponds. There had been a heavy rain during the night, but the sky started clearing at dawn and a bright sun was shining when we found the phalarope. There was a light to moderate wind blowing from the north.

When we first sighted the bird, it was about 40 m away from us. We were immediately struck by the whiteness of the bird which was not unlike that of a Sanderling in winter plumage. The bird was relatively fearless and eventually swam to within 5 m of us. We observed the bird for 15 to 20 minutes. The following field characteristics were noted. The bird was quite white below, with a uniformly colored pale gray back, and a darker line marking the back edge of the folded wing. We observed the back carefully; it had no streaking or other marks on it of any kind. The bird had a gray stripe along the back of its neck. This stripe split into two parts at the back of the head, forming a "Y" on the top, back part of the head. This gave the bird a distinctly "bald" look on the top of the head. A distinct "Phalarope mark" went through the eye. The bill was not longer than the length of the head at the same level, and it did not have the "needle-thin" appearance of the bills of the Wilson's and the Northern phalarope. The bill was dark, but not jet black. The base of the bill was thicker than the rest of the bill and showed a slight yellow coloration whenever the bird held its head at just the right angle. This is, as far as we know, the first observation of a Red Phalarope in the state of Mississippi.

Black-necked Stilt: a New Breeding Species for Mississippi

Wayne C. Weber¹, Larry J. Gates², Robert P. Russell³,
and Judith A. Toups⁴

The Black-necked Stilt (Himantopus mexicanus) breeds in North America from Mexico and the southwestern United States east along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts as far as South Carolina (American Ornithologists' Union 1957). Although stilts have nested in Alabama (Imhof 1976) and

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Louisiana (Lowery 1974), there has been no previous report of nesting in Mississippi. Burleigh (1944), in his study of the birds of coastal Mississippi, did not record the species. We note here the occurrence of large numbers of Black-necked Stilts in 1977 near Pascagoula, Mississippi, and describe the first breeding record for the state.

The site of the breeding attempt was a large, dike-enclosed pond located about 1/2 mile west of the Pascagoula River (East Branch) and 1/2 mile south of U.S. Highway 90, just west of the access road to the West Bank Shipyard of Ingalls Shipbuilding. The pond was adjacent to the marshes and intertidal mudflats of the Pascagoula River estuary, and it attracted a wide variety of shorebirds and waterbirds. The pond covered about two-thirds of the enclosure in early May, but shrank steadily until it covered approximately one-sixth of this area by late July. Vegetation within the enclosure consisted largely of glasswort (Salicornia sp.) and occurred chiefly in the higher southeastern part, which was the area chosen for nesting by the stilts.

Although stilts may have occurred and even nested here in former years, the area was infrequently visited by humans before 1977. On 9 April 1977, 28 stilts were counted by L.J.G. Stilts were seen on all subsequent visits up to mid-September 1977, with 4 November and December sightings of 1 or 2 birds. Counts of stilts are summarized in Table 1. The pattern of seasonal occurrence in Alabama is similar to that at Pascagoula, with extreme dates of 23 March and 19 October (Imhof 1976).

The first indication of possible nesting was on 8 May, when WCW observed 2 instances of copulation (possibly involving the same pair). On 3 and 5 June, Judith and Jay Toups observed several birds giving apparent distraction displays, and strongly suspected nesting. On 6 June, WCW found the remains of 2 nests, indicated by groups of broken eggshells, beside a Salicornia patch near the water's edge. A stilt carcass was found near one of the nests, and it appeared that one or both nests had been broken up by a predator - possibly a raccoon (Procyon lotor), as numerous raccoon tracks were seen in the vicinity. About 8 or 10 stilts vigorously gave distraction displays as WCW searched for nests. The eggshells are now in the Mississippi State University collection.

We obtained no further evidence of nesting by the stilts at the large pond, although one or a few birds often seemed agitated by our presence during visits later in the summer. However, on 22 July an active nest was discovered at a small pond on the east side of the Ingalls Shipbuilding access road by Nell Powers, Jim Kisner, Tommy Kisner, and Sandy Whitacre. One stilt was incubating when the nest was found, and soon this bird and its mate both began calling excitedly and swooping at the observers, revealing 3 eggs in the nest. Unfortunately, this nest was not photographed, and we did not learn of this discovery until September.

On 12 August, RPR again visited the large pond, accompanied by visiting birders Van Truan from Pueblo, Colorado and Robert Bradley from Phoenix, Arizona. Truan discovered 2 partly-grown juvenile stilts on the far side of the pond, and they were seen well by all 3 observers. On 14

Table 1. Numbers of Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets recorded at large pond, Pascagoula River marsh

Date	Stilts ¹	Avocets	Observers ²
9 Apr. 1977	28	6	LJG, JR
17 Apr.	13	31	LJG, NP
8 May	15	33	WCW
3 June	18	38	JAT
5 June	25	33	JAT
6 June	15	25	WCW
13 June	30	N.C. ³	RPR
14 June	24	24	JAT
19 June	58	27	RPR, JAT, WCW
29 June	65	29	WCW
30 June	56	29	WCW
19 July	N.C.	14	RPR
22 July	N.C.	0 ⁴	RPR
29 July	14	14 ⁴	RPR, LCC
30 July	16	27 ⁵	RPR, WCW
5 Aug.	N.C.	56	RPR
12 Aug.	22(2)	92	RPR, VAT, RCB
14 Aug.	18(2)	106	RPR
19 Aug.	32(7)	201	RPR, JAT, WCW, LCC
25 Aug.	42	28 ⁴	JAT
26 Aug.	16	216	RPR
27 Aug.	14	251	RPR, JAT
1 Sept.	14	255	RPR
3 Sept.	40	307	LJG, JAT, JI, AB
10 Sept.	37	158	RPR, JAT
17 Sept.	20	65	LJG, WCW
18 Sept.	15(2)	126	WCW
1 Oct.	0	460	LJG, JI, JR
23 Oct.	0	257	JAT
5 Nov.	2	60	JAT
7 Nov.	2	160	JAT
21 Nov.	2	60	JAT
17 Dec.	1	2	LJG

¹Numbers in parentheses are for juvenile birds; these are included in the totals.

²Observers are as follows: AB, Anna Bullard; JAT, Judith A. Toups; JI, John Izral; JR, Joe Runzo; LCC, Leslie C. Cupp; LJG, Larry G. Gates; NP, Nell Powers; RCB, Robert C. Bradley; RPR, Robert P. Russell; VAT, Van A. Truan; WCW, Wayne C. Weber.

³N.C. = not counted.

⁴These counts made at low tide; most avocets were probably feeding on intertidal mudflats rather than in the pond.

⁵Avocets seen on tideflats, not in the pond (low tide).

August, RPR again saw 2 juveniles, and on 19 August, at least 7 juveniles were seen by RPR, JT, WCW, and Leslie Cupp. These 7 juveniles ranged from about half to three-quarters adult size, and we take this as evidence that at least 2 pairs of stilts had nested successfully in the area. Some of these juveniles may have come from the 22 July nest across the road; we feel certain that the early June nestings were unsuccessful, as birds hatched then would have been full-grown by mid-August. At least 2 juveniles were still present on 18 September (WCW); although adult-sized by then, they could still be easily told from adults by their dark grayish rather than jet-black upperparts, conspicuous brownish feather-edges on the back and wings, less distinct head markings, and markedly paler pink legs.

Also of interest was the presence of a group of American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) throughout the late spring and early summer at the same pond (see avocet counts in Table 1). From May to July, counts of avocets were much more consistent than those of stilts, ranging only from a low of 24 to a high of 38 birds (except for some July visits when the birds were presumably feeding on the tideflats), suggesting that the same individuals stayed all summer. A rapid buildup of avocet numbers began in early August, culminating in a remarkable 460 birds on 1 October (LJG et al.), more than twice the high count of avocets for Alabama. Avocets are known on the northern Gulf Coast mainly as a wintering species, and in fact the first summering avocets in coastal Alabama were recorded only in 1976 (Stewart 1976). The avocets at Pascagoula, although in full breeding plumage in May and June, gave no indication of reproductive behavior. The species has not been known to nest in recent years anywhere east of the Great Plains and coastal Texas.

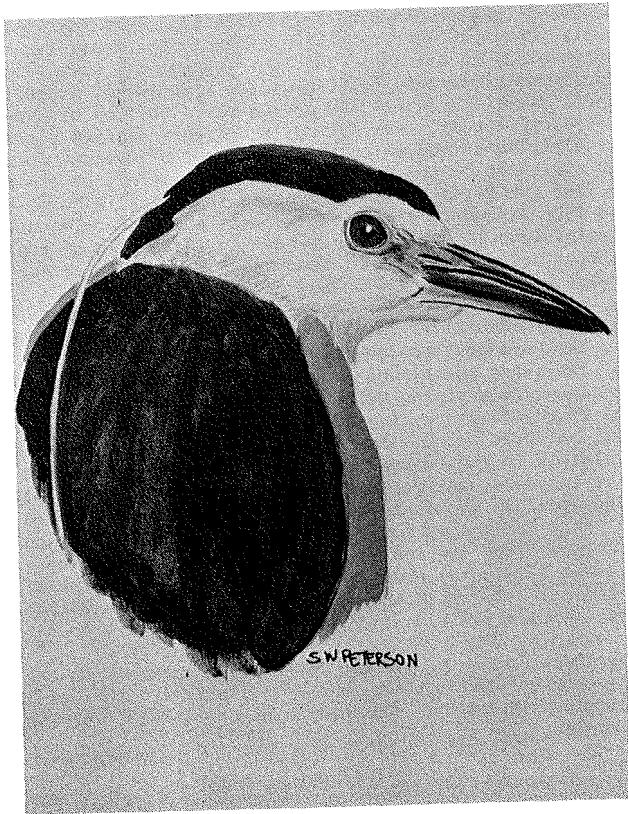
Black-necked Stilts can be considered as semi-colonial breeders. Perhaps the Pascagoula colony is in an early stage of establishment, and most of the birds were young and inexperienced; this, as well as predation and rapidly-dropping water levels, may have contributed to the failure of the first nesting attempt. Certainly not all the birds present attempted to breed. Nesting success of the stilts should be monitored closely in the future. We plan to contact the owners of the property involved, the Jackson County Port Authority, to see whether the breeding area can be maintained in its present condition on a long-term basis. This would give some protection both to the nesting stilts and to the numerous other species which use the area for nesting (e.g. Mottled Ducks, *Anas fulvigula*) or as a migration stopover and feeding area (many shorebirds). With luck, we may find ourselves with a permanent and most welcome addition to Mississippi's list of breeding bird species.

We thank Jerome A. Jackson for helpful comments on the manuscript. Weber's work on bird ecology on the Mississippi coast was partly supported by grants from the Chapman Memorial Fund, American Museum of Natural History.

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Black-crowned Night Heron. Painting by Stephen W. Peterson

Extensive Ground Foraging by Pileated Woodpeckers in
Recently Burned Pine Forests

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On 20 February 1977, while searching for Pileated Woodpeckers (Dryocopus pileatus) on Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge in east-central Mississippi, we visited five areas of pine forest which had been burned within the previous two weeks. The areas ranged from less than 1 km to more than 8 km apart. In each place, we were immediately impressed with the extensive evidence of Pileated Woodpeckers foraging on logs on the ground. Nearly every log had either been splintered, or at least explored by the birds (Fig. 1). We observed a male Pileated Woodpecker foraging on some fallen logs in one of these areas. He pecked vigorously, pausing to check his surroundings occasionally. The bird foraged on a single log for nearly 15 minutes before flying to a nearby pine.

On 26 February we visited another burned area and again noted the very extensive evidence of Pileated Woodpecker foraging. An examination of some of the logs showed they contained termites (Isoptera) and adult and larval beetles (Coleoptera), major components of the Pileated's winter diet (Beal 1895, 1911; Hoyt 1957; and Kilham 1976). By contrast, we found little evidence of similar Pileated Woodpecker foraging activity in adjacent unburned areas of similar habitat.

Pileated Woodpeckers have previously been observed feeding near the ground on fallen logs and stumps (Bent 1939, Hoyt 1950, and Kilham 1976). This method of feeding is common on the refuge, but we have never observed such extensive and intensive use of this technique in unburned areas. The reason for this unusual behavior is not readily evident, but five possibilities seem reasonable. First, the fire may have caused many insects to seek refuge in the fallen logs, thus increasing the amount of food available to the Pileateds in a single log. Second, at least some species of insects, including many woodboring beetles (Cerambycidae and Buprestidae), are known to be attracted to burned areas - often while the fire is still burning (Komareck 1969, Evans 1971). Third, most insect species are dormant during winter months and only renew activity during the warm days of spring. Perhaps, the heat from these late winter fires stimulated renewed insect activity in the logs, making them a more attractive foraging site for the Pileated. Hoyt (1950) reports that the Pileated uses the sound of disturbed insects moving about in the wood to assist them in locating their prey. Fourth, the lack of underbrush remaining after the fire may have made the food source more apparent to the Pileateds or, fifth, may have enabled the birds to forage on the ground with less danger from hidden predators.

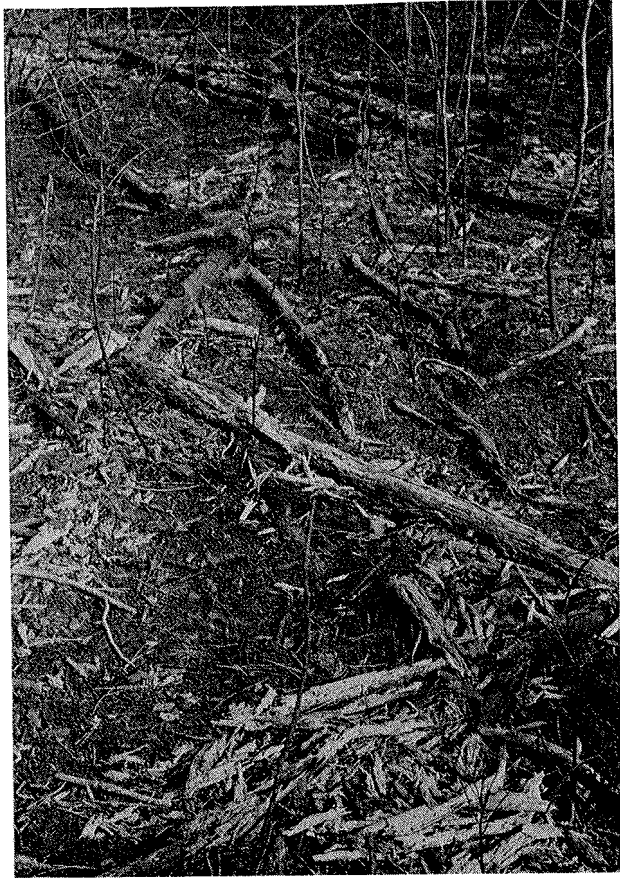


Figure 1. Logs splintered on the ground in a recently burned pine forest by foraging Pileated Woodpeckers.

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WANTED: SIGHTINGS OF COLOR-BANDED KILLDEER

I have been color-banding Killdeer near Starkville, Mississippi and would appreciate knowing of any sightings of these birds. Each Killdeer has an aluminum band and a color band above the "knee" on one leg and a color band on the other leg. Please note the location and colors of bands and details of your observations. These should be sent to Bette J. Schardien, Box Z, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762 and to Bird Banding Laboratory, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland 20811.

Red-throated Loon Sightings on Ship and Horn Islands, Mississippi

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On 14 June 1977, while watching birds on East Ship Island, Mississippi (12 miles south of Biloxi), I observed a small loon which I readily identified as a winter-plumaged Red-throated Loon (Gavia stellata). I studied the bird for about 30 minutes through a 20X to 45X zoom telescope; although it remained about 100 yards offshore, viewing conditions were excellent (sun behind observer). I noted the following field marks: size, estimated to be smaller than a Common Loon, Gavia immer (although no Common Loons or other waterbirds were nearby for comparison); bill very slender, with lower mandible upturned, and held at an angle above the horizontal (this last feature, a good field mark of the species, is not mentioned in current field guides, but is noted by Binford and Remsen, 1974:120); throat white and face much more extensively white than in Common Loon, with white surrounding eyes; back gray, but white spotting not visible because of distance. A full description is on file at Mississippi State University. I have had extensive field experience with all 4 loon species in the Pacific Northwest.

On 14 January 1978 I found another Red-throated Loon off the north beach of Horn Island, Mississippi, about 4 miles from the west end of the island. This bird was observed for 10 minutes at a distance of about 200 yards, also at magnifications of up to 45X, and again the sun was shining from behind me for most of the observation period. The bird was small for a loon (Common Loons were seen nearby, but not in direct comparison); the face, throat, and front of the neck were immaculate white; the crown and back of the neck were pale gray, and the back a somewhat darker gray, but still paler than in the Common Loon. The bill was slender and slightly upturned, and was held well above the horizontal.

I know of only 4 previous reports of Red-throated Loon sightings in Mississippi, all of them between November and February. The first was seen at Biloxi on 6 February 1960 by Buford M. Myers (MOS Newsletter 5 (4):6, 1960). On 28 November 1960, Lovett E. Williams, Jr. found another bird at Gulfport (MOS Newsletter 5(5):8, 1960); a second sighting at Gulfport by Williams on 17 December 1960, on file at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, may refer to the same individual. The fourth sighting was one seen at Gulfport on 7 December 1969 by W. Marvin Davis (MOS Newsletter 16(1):3, 1971; Audubon Field Notes 24:511, 1970).

Red-throated Loons winter as far south as Baja California, Texas, and Florida. In Louisiana, there are only 4 records, ranging in date from 4 December to 14 March (Lowery 1974). In Alabama, at least 17 records span the period 1 November to 1 May (Imhof 1976; American Birds 31:187, 1977). The Ship Island sighting appears to be the only summer Red-throated Loon record from the central Gulf Coast; however, the species does occur annually in summer as far south as northern

California (American Birds 29:1025, 1975 and 30:997, 1976; Weber, personal observation) and Virginia (American Birds 29:955, 1975 and 30:938, 1976). Red-throated Loons apparently take at least 2 years to reach maturity, and immature birds normally remain on salt water (Godfrey 1966:14). Thus it is not totally unexpected that an occasional bird should remain in summer even near the extreme southern edge of the species' wintering range, as is true of the Common Loon. In future, therefore, Mississippi observers should watch for Red-throated Loons not only in winter, but also in summer!

I am grateful to W. H. Turcotte and B. E. Gandy for providing details of previous Mississippi sightings of Red-throated Loons. I also owe many thanks to the staffs of the Gulf Islands National Seashore and Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Ocean Springs, for help during my work on Ship and Horn Islands. Two grants from the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund, American Museum of Natural History, provided partial funding for my research.

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Disposal of Fecal Sacs in Water by Common Grackles

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Welty (1975:345) stated that swallows and martins dropped fecal sacs over water, and that a Lyrebird (Menura superba) may submerge the fecal sac under water in a stream or may dig a hole and bury it underground. Welty did not cite the original sources for this information, and I have not been able to find them.

On 28-29 May 1975, I observed the Common Grackle (Quiscalus quiscula) defecating and dropping fecal sacs into the water of a lake at Leroy Percy State Park, Washington County, Mississippi. These activities usually occurred as soon as the bird was over water in its flight from the surrounding woods and before crossing the lake. Some birds flew out over the water, dropped the sac, and returned to the shore and woods of the same side of the lake, indicating that a special trip had been made to the lake for this purpose. Others dropped the sac and flew across the lake where most of the food gathering occurred. These activities were verified by dozens of observations.

Such disposal of the feces in water or underground at some distance from the nest may serve to conceal the location of the nest.

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Observations on the Nesting Habitat and Nest Design of the Mockingbird

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As part of a study on nest site selection in the Mockingbird (Mimus polyglottos) I collected data on nest design and placement. A total of 45 nests were located before the start of the nesting season in and near Starkville, Mississippi during 1975. Nest height, placement, condition, and tree species were recorded.

Nesting habitat.- Of the 45 nest locations, 32 (71.4%) were in sugarberry (Celtis laevigata), 3 (6.7%) each in water oak (Quercus nigra) and Japanese magnolia, and 1 each (2.2%) in osage orange (Maclura pomifera), holly (Ilex sp.), firethorn (Pyracantha coccinea), apple (Malus sp.), pear (Pyrus sp.), plum (Prunus sp.), honeylocust (Gleditsia triacanthos), and viburnum (viburnum sp.). Mean height of

the nests was 2.47 m with a range of 1.8 to 5.0 m. All nest locations were in young short trees or in trees and shrubs with a low growth profile. In general the nests were near the central axis of the young trees, nearing the periphery in the relatively older trees. In all cases the nests were located where branching occurred.

The actual nest site locations found in this study seemed to have further restrictions that merely sites where branching had occurred. Nest placement appeared to be influenced so that the nest was concealed. For example, in young trees the nests were located near the center axis of the tree while in older trees the nests were located in peripheral sites. In both cases, the site chosen allowed maximum concealment from above. This would appear to be an adaptation to avoid potential predators. Laskey (1962) observed that Mockingbirds first breed in shrubs while late nesters use trees. Concealment would be maximum later (May to June) in trees and earlier (March to April) in evergreen shrubs. In addition to selection for concealment of the nest, nest site placement appears related to protection of the eggs and young from adverse weather (i.e., central sites in young trees are more secure and better protected than peripheral sites).

Nest design and material.- The Mockingbird nest is fundamentally a 3-layered cup, each layer blending into the next. The outermost layer is composed primarily of twigs, some with barbs. The middle layer is made up of stripped bark, a number of different grasses, horse hair, leaves, and small twigs. Within this layer I found a number of man-made objects (e.g., fishing line, plastic wrappings, knitting yarn etc.). The innermost layer was made up of leaves and, what appeared to me as, unraveled and frayed pieces of grass and bark. One nest weighed 42 g.

The type of nest design employed by the Mockingbird is known as statant (Pettingill 1970) with the nest having form (e.g., it is cup-shaped), and is supported from below. Statant design is shown by the majority of passerine species. As described, the Mockingbird nest is basically three layers structurally which can be classified to function as well. The outermost layer, constructed from twigs, gives the support necessary for the nest. The use of twigs with thorns is most likely for (1) stability (i.e., the thorns keep the nest from moving on the branch during periods of high winds) and (2) as a deterrent to potential predators. The middle layer, composed of stripped bark, completes the cup and functions as insulation and support. The innermost layer, constructed from frayed bark and leaves, serves as insulation and as a "cushion" for the eggs. The overall design of the Mockingbird nest allows for considerable stability and support (evidenced by the relatively long life of the nest after its use during the breeding season) as well as providing adequate thermal insulation for the eggs and young.

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Summary of Mississippi Christmas Bird Counts, 1977-78

Compiled by Wayne C. Weber

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Interest in Christmas Bird Counts (CBC's) is increasing in Mississippi. Last winter, there were both a record number of counts (10) and number of observers (140). These compare with 5 counts and 31 observers as recently as 8 years ago. Three counts (Jackson County, Noxubee NWR, and Sardis Lake) posted record species totals this year, and Jackson County birders listed 152 species (plus 4 more in count week), a new state high.

Count totals are summarized in Table 1. The compiler's name, party-hours and party-miles, and highlights of unusual observations are given in the paragraphs below. Complete details will be published in the July 1978 issue of American Birds.

Thanks to all CBC compilers and observers, and especially to Tom Imhof, regional CBC editor for American Birds, who provided a tabulation of results to assist us in preparing this summary, and who reviewed the details submitted for unusual species.

Sardis Lake (W. Marvin Davis, compiler) -- Dec. 31; 60 party-hours (41 on foot, 19 by car); 209 party-miles (39 on foot, 170 by car).

This CBC, now 3 years old, tallied a record 88 species. Increased coverage (60 party-hours vs. 39 last year) produced higher counts for most species. Best bird was a Rough-legged Hawk (rare in Miss.). Numbers of Canada Geese (3800 vs. 468 last year) and Mallards (13,350 vs. 316) increased sharply; other high waterbird counts were 87 Horned Grebes (13 last year), 600 Pintail (38) and 705 Canvasbacks (71). The 509 Dark-eyed Juncos exceeded the combined total of the other 9 counts.

Moon Lake (Ben and Lula Coffey, compilers) -- Dec. 27; 13 party-hours (6 on foot, 7 by car); 56 party-miles (4 on foot, 52 by car).

The Moon Lake CBC, one of Mississippi's oldest, returned this year after a one-year hiatus. Unusual species were 8 Common Mergansers (rare in Miss.) and 17 Least Sandpipers (only ones seen on an inland CBC this year).

Grenada (W. Marvin Davis, compiler) -- Dec. 17; 35 party-hours (28 on foot, 7 by car); 181 party-miles (25 on foot, 156 by car).

Noteworthy records on this CBC included 37 Red-breasted Nuthatches (cf. 20 on the other 9 counts combined); the only Bewick's Wren in the state; a Solitary Vireo, first for Grenada since 1972; and 5 Le Conte's Sparrows.

Noxubee NWR (Jerome A. Jackson, compiler) -- Dec. 18; 46.7 party-hours (33 on foot, 12 by car, 0.9 by airplane, 0.8 by helicopter); 218 party-miles (52 on foot, 111 by car, 40 by airplane, 15 by helicopter).

Once again, the Noxubee count was perhaps the only one in the U.S. to feature coverage by both airplane and helicopter! Ideal weather, plus a high observer turnout, contributed to highest-ever counts for 23 species, and a record species total of 95 (not 94 as reported to American Birds - 150 Canada Geese were inadvertently omitted from the list!). Unusual species included 5 Cattle Egrets and a Vesper Sparrow, both new to the count, and a Golden Eagle (adult) and Solitary Vireo, both found for only the second time. Noxubee was the only count reporting Evening Grosbeaks (4), although they appeared throughout the state in January.

Washington County, south (Edward Alexander, Jr., compiler) -- Dec. 18; 47.5 party-hours (19.5 on foot, 28 by car); 283 party-miles (18 on foot, 265 by car).

This year's total of 88 species was the second highest ever for Washington County. As at Sardis Lake, counts were high for Canada Goose (456 vs. 56 last year) and Mallard (35,578 vs. an average of about 10,000). Counts of some raptors were also high (previous highs in parentheses); Red-tailed Hawk, 91 (26) and Am. Kestrel, 72 (31). The 20 Tree Swallows were the only ones seen on an inland CBC. Other unusual species were a Cattle Egret, 38 White-fronted Geese, a Blue-winged Teal (new to the count), 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and a Black-and-white Warbler (new to the count).

Jackson (William H. Turcotte, compiler) -- Dec. 31; 60 party-hours (43 on foot, 17 by car); 198 party-miles (23 on foot, 175 by car).

Jackson recorded 95 species this year, down from last year's record 101. Four of the 5 Bald Eagles seen in the state were at Jackson, as were the only inland Fish Crows (3). Counts of 8 Common Loons and 13 Double-crested Cormorants were local highs. An Oldsquaw reported on the count was deleted from the American Birds listing because no details were provided, but is included in the total here; as Oldsquaws are regular in winter at Jackson (seen on 4 of the last 5 CBC's), such details seem unnecessary. However, an Am. Redstart was also reported without field notes; for a species this unusual in winter, a full description of the bird is essential, and we hope details will be forthcoming.

Natchez (Ralph Shields III, compiler) -- Dec. 17; 57 party-hours (19 on foot, 34 by car, 4 by boat); 314 party-miles (12 on foot, 282 by car, 20 by boat).

Natchez' species total dropped from 92 last year to 76 this year. However, Natchez observers did record the only Northern Oriole in the state, and the only inland Great Egrets (3) and Common Goldeneye (1). Five Common Loons were seen, for a local high. Two species seen last year, and one this year, were deleted by American Birds for lack of adequate details; we encourage the compilers of this count to be careful to

submit field notes for unusual species.

Hattiesburg (Larry Gates, compiler) -- Dec. 29; 31 party-hours (21 on foot, 10 by car); 90 party-miles (15 on foot, 75 by car).

Hattiesburg slipped by only 3 species from its high of 100 species last year. Unusual species, all new for the count, included a Merlin, 2 White-breasted Nuthatches, 2 Short-billed Marsh Wrens, an Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warbler, 2 Indigo Buntings, and a Dickcissel. High counts included 800 Cedar Waxwings and 455 Chipping Sparrows; also noteworthy were 5 Eared Grebes and 4 Spotted Sandpipers (the latter species never missed on the count!). A Bald Eagle was seen in count week.

Southern Hancock Co. (Judith Toups, compiler) -- Dec. 19; 62.5 party-hours (47.5 on foot, 15 by car); 207 party-miles (41 on foot, 166 by car).

This count, after an impressive 140 species in its first year, dropped to 134 this year. The decrease was at least partly because of an unusually warm day with brisk winds starting in mid-morning, which made "dicky-birding" useless after 10 A.M. Best bird was an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake at Bay St. Louis (Steve Peterson, Larry Gates). Hancock Co. was the only CBC in the state to record Mottled Duck (2), Peregrine (1), Gull-billed Tern (1), or Bachman's Sparrow (14), and the only CBC except Hattiesburg to log a Merlin (1).

Jackson County (Larry Gates, compiler) -- Dec. 17; 81 party-hours (60 on foot, 21 by car); 348 party-miles (28 on foot, 320 by car).

Aided by increased coverage (23 observers vs. 17 last year), Jackson County logged 152 species, a new high for Mississippi. Among the long list of unusual species were 2 Eared Grebes, a Surf Scoter, 4 (!) Ospreys, an Am. Oystercatcher (rare in the state), a Black-necked Stilt (first Miss. winter record), a Sprague's Pipit, a Yellow-throated Vireo, 2 Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warblers, and a Lincoln's Sparrow. High counts included 1250 Black Skimmers (previous high 14) and 39 Sandhill Cranes (perhaps nearly the whole Miss. population?). The most unusual species reported on the count, a Baird's Sandpiper, was deleted by the regional CBC editor, evidently because details provided by the count compiler were quite brief. Details are on file at Mississippi State. The species normally winters in South America.

Despite the high species total, Jackson Co. missed 17 species recorded by Hancock Co. this year, including some "easy" species (e.g., Turkey Vulture, Spotted Sandpiper, Brewer's Blackbird, and even Chipping Sparrow!). Clearly, both our coastal counts could use even better coverage in the future.

Note to CBC compilers for 1978-79 -- Please send a copy of your complete CBC results (including details of weather, coverage, etc.) to Dr. Jackson as soon as possible after your count next winter. If possible, please send a complete photocopy of the form you send to American Birds; if you

do not have access to a copy machine, send a typed or written copy instead. In any case, please include copies of field notes (full description, including circumstances of observation) for any unusual species recorded. Otherwise, these details will remain buried in the National Audubon files in New York, where they are unavailable to us. Thanks for your cooperation.

Table 1. Data for Mississippi Christmas Bird Counts, 1977-78

Count	Date	Species	Indiv.	Observers	Parties
Sardis Lake	31 Dec.	88	52,609	8	6
Moon Lake	27 Dec.	63	7,489	2	1-2
Grenada	17 Dec.	81	4,483	5	3-4
Noxubee NWR	18 Dec.	95	35,457	21	7
Washington Co.	18 Dec.	88	94,718	25	8
Jackson	31 Dec.	95	9,469	12	5
Natchez	17 Dec.	76	3,897	15	9
Hattiesburg	29 Dec.	97	10,645	14	7
S. Hancock Co.	19 Dec.	134	8,446	15	8
Jackson Co.	17 Dec.	152	16,249	23	8

In Memoriam: George H. Lowery

George H. Lowery, eminent ornithologist and friend to many of us, died at the age of 64 on 19 January 1978. A native of Monroe, Louisiana, Dr. Lowery completed his B.S. and M.S. degrees at Louisiana State University where he became a member of the faculty in 1936 and shortly thereafter founded the LSU Museum of Natural Science. He received his Ph.D. in 1949 from the University of Kansas. I first came to know of Dr. Lowery when I was a student at the University of Kansas and read his now classic study on the nocturnal migration of birds. For that study Dr. Lowery received the coveted Brewster Award of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1956. Although he published over 100 scientific articles, we probably know him best for his book, "Birds of Louisiana," which has gone through three editions. In addition to his bird studies, Dr. Lowery was also a highly respected mammalogist and in 1974 he received the Louisiana Literary Award for his book, "The Mammals of Louisiana and its Adjacent Waters." From its beginning in 1936, Dr. Lowery built the bird collection at the LSU Museum of Natural Science into the 4th largest university-centered collection in the United States, an amazing 86,000 specimens. Soon after my arrival at Mississippi State, he invited me to LSU to become acquainted with the museum. I made several trips to Baton Rouge and Dr. Lowery was always eager for me and my students to make use of the ornithological collection at LSU. He was a colleague for whom I had nothing but the highest professional and personal regard. In addition to other distinctions, Dr. Lowery served for three years as President of the American Ornithologists' Union and he was Boyd Professor of Zoology at LSU, his university's highest rank. He is survived by his wife, Murial, two daughters, and three grandchildren.

A memorial fund has been set up in the name of George H. Lowery, the proceeds of which will be used to further the interests and goals of the museum which he founded. Donations should be sent to: LSU Foundation, 122 Systems Building, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La. 70803.
--Jerome A. Jackson

Birds Around the State - Fall Migration, 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 fall migration period (1 August to 30 November). The list of sightings is followed by a key to observers' initials, and another key identifying by county 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 and/or season in question; or (C), species casual or accidental in Mississippi (recorded less often than once a year, on average).

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

- COMMON LOON -- 1, 11 and 12 Aug., East Ship I., WCW (R in summer; bird missing flight feathers); "many", 30 Oct., off Horn I., JAT, LJG, JI, JR, AB (A); 7, 24 Nov., Noxubee NWR, WCW, JAJ, RL (N); 1, 24 Nov., Kosciusko sewage lagoons, JS.
- HORNED GREBE -- 4, 19 Nov., Oktibbeha County L., WCW (A); 20, 24 Nov., Noxubee NWR, WCW (N); 26 Nov., L. Washington, GEA and GA.
- EARED GREBE -- 1, 20 Sept., Hattiesburg sewage lagoons, LJG (A); 8, 23 Sept., Hattiesburg sewage lagoons, WCW; 10, 1 Oct., Hattiesburg sewage lagoons, LJG (highest number recorded in Miss.).
- WHITE PELICAN -- 2, 9 Oct., North I. (Chandeleur Islands, Louisiana), AVH, GT; 11, 6 Oct., Noxubee NWR, RO, VO (R transient away from coast); 4, 9 Oct., same place, WCW, JAJ; 4, 10 Oct., same place, EWP; 100, 15 Oct., eastern Jackson Co., JAT (N); 100, 3 Nov., Biloxi, JAT (N); 117, 7 Nov., Bellefontaine Point, JAT (N); 16, 21 Nov., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT.
- BROWN PELICAN -- 5, last week of July, Waveland, HW; 2, 3 Sept., Gulfport, JAT, LJG, JI, AB; 6 imm. with wing tags, 8 Sept., Marsh Point (near Ocean Springs), RPR (birds from June 1977 introduction to Chandeleur Islands).
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- 1, 23 Sept., Hattiesburg sewage ponds, WCW (A); 5, 7 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 3, 15 Oct., Jackson County, JAT; 8, 28 Oct., Oktibbeha County L., WCW; 200+ ("several large flocks of about 50 each"), 30 Oct., Mississippi Sound off Horn I., JAT, LJG, JI, JR, AB (N).
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD -- 150, 3 Sept., Biloxi to Bellefontaine Point, JAT, LJG, JI, AB (N); 8, 3 Nov., Biloxi, RP (L); 4, 5 Nov. & 17 Nov., Bellefontaine Point, JAT (L); 1, 24 Nov., Biloxi, BB (L) - Nov. sightings are unusual.
- GREEN HERON -- 1, 21 Sept., Noxubee NWR, JAJ (D); 1, 1 Oct., Jackson, SP; 1 imm., 2 Nov., Kosciusko, JS (D).
- LITTLE BLUE HERON -- 90 (about 70% imm.), 28 Aug., Noxubee NWR, WCW (N); 3 Sept., Noxubee NWR, JAJ.
- CATTLE EGRET -- 8, 9 Nov., Noxubee NWR, CDC, WCW (L); 22, 26 Nov., Noxubee NWR, MF (L).

- REDDISH EGRET -- More sightings this fall than ever before in coastal Miss.; most were of imm. birds. The following partial list of sightings indicates the number of localities where the species was seen: 1, 8 Aug., Horn I., RPR; 1, 13 and 14 Aug., East Ship I., WCW; 1, 18 Aug., freshwater pond near Lakeshore, WCW, JAT; 2, 22 Aug., Pass Christian and Long Beach, JAT, RPR; 2, 24 Aug., Bay St. Louis and Waveland, JAT; 1, 5 Sept., Ocean Springs, RPR; 2, 5 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, AD; 2, 22 Oct., Biloxi, JAT; 2, 24 Oct., Gulfport, JAT.
- GREAT EGRET -- 45, 28 Aug., Noxubee NWR, WCW (N).
- LOUISIANA HERON -- 1 imm., 28 Aug., Noxubee NWR, WCW (R away from coast - first record for Refuge; detailed notes on file).
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON -- 1, 3 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, LJG, JI, AB (R); 1 ad., 17 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, LJG (R).
- LEAST BITTERN -- 1, 3 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, LJG, JI, AB; 1, 4 Sept., Ocean Springs, RPR (first seen in area since early Aug. - birds possibly moved to larger marshes?); 1, 17 Sept., Buccaneer State Park, JAT (D).
- WOOD STORK -- 145, 28 Aug., Noxubee NWR, WCW (N - possibly a record high count for Miss.?); 110, 3 Sept., same place, WCW, JAJ (N); 1, 7 Oct., same place, JAJ (D).
- WHITE IBIS -- 6 (1 ad., 5 imm.), 18 Aug., Lakeshore, JAT, WCW; 7 (1 ad., 6 imm.), 22 Aug., Waveland, JAT, RPR; 15, 27 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, RPR; 15 (1 ad., 14 imm.), 3 Sept., Noxubee NWR, WCW (N - highest count for Refuge); 1 ad., 24 Nov., Noxubee NWR, WCW (L).
- WHISTLING SWAN -- 1 ad., 24 Nov., Noxubee NWR, WCW (R).
- WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- 1 imm., 9 Oct. through end of Nov., Noxubee NWR, WCW, CDC, et al. (R).
- SNOW GOOSE (BLUE PHASE) -- 2, 9 Oct., Hattiesburg sewage ponds, LJG, JR (A); 1 imm., 14 Oct. through end of Nov., Noxubee NWR, EWP, JAJ, WCW, et al.
- BLACK DUCK -- 10, 14 Nov., Noxubee NWR, CDC (A).
- MOTTLED DUCK -- 40, 12 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, RPR, VAT, RCB (N); 16, 18 Aug., ponds near Lakeshore, WCW, JAT; 25, 27 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, RPR.
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL -- 1, 19 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JAT, RPR, LCC (possibly summering?).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL -- 4, 12 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, RPR, VAT, RCB (early migrants?); 1, 12 Aug., East Ship I., WCW; 40, 18 Aug., Lakeshore, WCW, JAT; 60, 27 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, RPR, JAT; 50, 3 Sept., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 14 Nov., Noxubee NWR, CDC (D).
- NORTHERN SHOVELER -- 5, 19 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JAT, RPR, LCC (A); 20, 27 Aug., same place, JAT, RPR.
- REDHEAD -- 2, 21 Nov., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT.
- RING-NECKED DUCK -- 2 (1 m, 1 f), 23 Sept., Hattiesburg sewage ponds, WCW (may have been present all summer); 4, 7 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 200, 5 Nov., Noxubee NWR, JAJ; 500, 9 Nov., Noxubee NWR, WCW, CDC.
- LESSER SCAUP -- 200, 28 Oct., Oktibbeha County L., WCW (N); 3, 15 Nov., Kosciusko sewage lagoons, JS.
- BUFFLEHEAD -- 2, 14 Nov., Noxubee NWR, CDC (A); 25, 19 Nov., Oktibbeha County L., WCW; 2, 26 Nov., Lakeshore, JAT (A).

- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER -- 1, 30 Nov., Hattiesburg sewage ponds, LJG (R).
 SURF SCOTER -- 2 f or imm., 24 Nov., Noxubee NWR, WCW (R - first record for Refuge. Birds studied carefully for 1/2 hour; detailed notes on file).
- RUDDY DUCK -- 20, 9 Oct., Hattiesburg sewage lagoons, LJG, JR (A); 2, 20 Oct., Noxubee NWR, GAH (A).
 HOODED MERGANSER -- 75, 14 Nov., Noxubee NWR, CDC (A).
 RED-BREASTED MERGANSER -- 5, 30 Oct., Mississippi Sound off Horn I., JAT, LJG, JI, JR, AB; 3, 30 Nov., Kosciusko sewage lagoons, JS.
 BLACK VULTURE -- 148, 28 Aug., Noxubee NWR, WCW (N); 125, 30 Oct., same place, WCW (N).
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE -- 1, 9 Aug., Leaf River near Merrill, RPR.
 MISSISSIPPI KITE -- 2, 9 Aug. Chickasawhay R. near Merrill, RPR; 3 (2 ad., 1 imm.), 9 Aug., Leaf R. near Merrill, RPR; 1, 31 Aug., Archer I., Arkansas, NH; 1, 18 Sept., Gulfport, JAT, AB (D).
 SHARP-SHINNED HAWK -- 1, 9 Aug., Hattiesburg, LJG (E); 2, 15 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJG; 1, 25 Nov., Monticello, CLB.
 RED-TAILED HAWK -- 1, 5 Sept., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA (A).
 RED-SHOULDERED HAWK -- 5, 9 Aug., Merrill & vicinity, RPR.
 BROAD-WINGED HAWK -- 50+, 24 Sept., Jackson, EC (N); 30, 24 Sept., Brooklyn, LJG (N); 1, 15 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJG.
- BALD EAGLE -- 1 ad., 30 Oct., Horn I., JAT, LJG, JI, JR, AB; 2 ads. present at nest site near Gulfport in Nov., JAT.
 MARSH HAWK -- 1, 14 Sept., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA (A); 1 f or imm., 14 Sept., Noxubee NWR, CDC, WCW (A); 1 imm., 17 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, LJG (A); 7, 17 Oct., Golden Triangle Airport (near Columbus), CDC.
- OSPREY -- 2, 14 Sept., Noxubee NWR, CDC, WCW; 1, 9 Oct., same place, WCW; 1, 5 Nov., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT (D?).
 PEREGRINE -- 1, 15 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJG (R).
 AMERICAN KESTREL -- 1, 18 Sept., Leflore, NH (A - species not seen in area during summer).
- WILD TURKEY -- 4, 2 Oct., Archer I., Ark., NH.
 SANDHILL CRANE -- At least 3 or 4 heard flying overhead, evening of 12 Nov., Starkville, RL (R transient in inland Miss.).
- AMERICAN COOT -- 4, 20 Aug., Pascagoula, WCW (R in summer); 2, 3 Sept., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 1 Oct., Jackson, SP (A).
 AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER -- 3, 9 Oct., Cat I., AVH, GT (casual in Miss.).
 SEMIPALMATED PLOVER -- 11, 20 Aug., Bay St. Louis to Lakeshore, WCW; 28, 27 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, RPR, JAT (N); also 27 on 26 Aug.; 3, 28 Aug., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 4, 3 Sept., same place, WCW.
 PIPING PLOVER -- 7, 18 Aug., Bay St. Louis to Lakeshore, WCW, JAT; 10, 3 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, LJG, JI, AB.
 SNOWY PLOVER -- 3, 8 Aug., Horn I., RPR; 4, 14 Aug., East Ship I., WCW.
 WILSON'S PLOVER -- 16, 19 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JAT, RPR, LCC (N).
- KILLDEER -- 150, 28 Aug., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 200, 3 Sept., same place, WCW (N).
 AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER -- 1, 22 Aug., Pascagoula, AD; 1, 9 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER -- 40, 3 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, LJG, JI, AB (N); 5, 9 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW.

- RUDDY TURNSTONE -- 3, 11 Aug., East Ship I., WCW; 6, 20 Aug., Gulfport, WCW.
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK -- 1, 3 Sept., Noxubee NWR, JAJ.
- COMMON SNIPER -- 2, 3 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, LJG, JI, AB (A).
- WHIMBREL -- 1, 12 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, RPR, VAT, RCB; 1, 27 Aug., same place, RPR, JAT; 2, 18 Sept., same place, WCW.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER -- 1, 27 Aug. and 1, 1 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, RPR; 1, 3 Sept., Gulfport, JAT, LJG, JI, AB; 1, 17 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, LJG.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- 1, 7 Aug., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA; 1, 12 Aug., Greenville, GEA and GA.
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER -- 1, 27 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, RPR, JAT.
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS -- 40, 27 Aug. and 1 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, RPR, JAT (max. counts); 10, 28 Aug., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA; 2, 5 Sept., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA; 2, 25 Oct., Greenville, GEA and GA.
- RED KNOT -- 5 (breeding pl.), 14 Aug., East Ship I., WCW; 1, 20 Aug., Waveland, WCW; 3, 25 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT; 9 (winter pl.), 5 Sept., West Ship I., RPR (N).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER -- 15, 20 Aug., Gulfport, WCW; 20 on 1 Aug., 75 on 12 Aug., 3 on 5 Sept., and 1 on 23 Sept., Greenville, GEA; 100, 28 Aug., and 12, 5 Sept., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA; 400 on 28 Aug., and 150 on 3 Sept., Noxubee NWR, WCW (N).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER -- 3, 5 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, AD (R in fall).
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER -- 3, 5 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, AD (R).
- LEAST SANDPIPER -- 10 on 1 Aug., 90 on 5 Sept., 130 on 23 Sept., and 225 on 25 Oct., Greenville, GEA; 500, 3 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, LJG, JI, AB; 20, 5 Sept., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA.
- DUNLIN -- 1, 26 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, RPR (E); 5, 3 Sept., same place, JAT, LJG, JI, AB (E); 500, 23 Oct., same place, JAT; 1, 5 Nov., Hattiesburg, LJG.
- DOWITCHER (sp.?) -- 1, 25 Oct., Greenville, GEA; 1, 5 Sept., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA.
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER -- 150, 3 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, LJG, JI, AB (N).
- STILT SANDPIPER -- 24, 19 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JAT, RPR, LCC (N); 4, 3 Sept., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 2, 23 Oct., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT (D).
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER -- 7 on 1 Aug., 60 on 5 Sept., 155 on 23 Sept., and 100 on 25 Oct., Greenville, GEA; 500, 3 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, LJG, JI, AB; 5, 5 Sept., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA.
- WESTERN SANDPIPER -- 700, 3 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, LJG, JI, AB; 22 on 23 Sept., and 11 on 25 Oct., Greenville, GEA.
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER -- 1, 22 Aug., Waveland, JAT, RPR; 1, 27 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, RPR; 2, 30 Aug., Long Beach, JAT, RPR; 1, 3 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, LJG, JI, AB; 1, 3 Sept., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- MARbled GODWIT -- 1, 24 Oct., Bay St. Louis, JAT (R).
- SANDERLING -- 200, 18 Aug., Bay St. Louis to Lakeshore, WCW, JAT (N).
- AMERICAN AVOCET -- All records from Pascagoula R. marsh. 200+ present on most visits, mid-Aug. to late Oct.; highest counts, 307 on 3 Sept. (JAT, LJG, JI, AB) and 460 on 1 Oct. (LJG, JI, JR) -- latter count a record high for Miss., 60 still present on 21 Nov. (JAT).

- BLACK-NECKED STILT -- 2, 18 Aug., ponds near Lakeshore, WCW, JAT; all other records from Pascagoula R. marsh. Maximum no., 42 on 25 Aug. (JAT). Several partly-grown young seen, 12 Aug. through 19 Aug. (RPR, VAT, RCB, JAT, WCW, LCC), confirming successful breeding. Several late records in Nov. (2 each on 5 Nov., 7 Nov., and 21 Nov., all by JAT). For full details, see article, this issue.
- RED PHALAROPE -- 1, 9 Oct., Hattiesburg sewage ponds, LJG, JR (first record for Miss. - see article, this issue).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE -- 1, 8 Aug., Horn I., RPR; all other records from Pascagoula R. marsh, as follows: 1, 12 Aug., RPR, VAT, RCB; 8, 25 Aug., JAT; 7, 26 Aug., RPR; 11, 27 Aug., JAT, RPR; 12, 3 Sept., JAT, LJG, JI, AB; 8, 10 Sept., RPR, JAT, KRE (R - largest numbers recorded in Miss. by far!)
- NORTHERN PHALAROPE -- 1, 10 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, KRE, RPR, JAT (third record for Miss., and first for Gulf coast; detailed notes on file).
- JAEGER (sp.?) -- 2 imm., 9 Oct., Hattiesburg sewage ponds, LJG, JR (any jaeger casual inland - detailed notes on file).
- HERRING GULL -- 1 imm., 17 Sept., Gulfport, JAT (possibly summering? - R in summer).
- RING-BILLED GULL - 3, 20 Aug., Gulfport, WCW (R in summer); 2, 27 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, RPR; 25 Nov., L. Washington, GEA and GA.
- BONAPARTE'S GULL -- 25 Nov., L. Washington, GEA and GA; 1, 26 Nov., Waveland, JAT (A); 10, 26 Nov., Hattiesburg sewage ponds, LJG (A).
- LEAST TERN -- 7, 11 Sept., Bay St. Louis, JAT (D).
- ROYAL TERN -- Up to 2000, first week of Sept., Marsh Point (near Ocean Springs), RPR (N).
- CASPIAN TERN -- 5, 30 Aug., Noxubee NWR, RO, VO (R); 2, 3 Sept., same place, WCW; 4, 14 Sept., same place, WCW, CDC.
- BLACK TERN -- 400, 8 Aug., Horn I., RPR (N); 250, 12 Aug., East Ship I., WCW; 1, 25 Aug., Kosciusko sewage ponds, JS; 100, 30 Aug., freshwater ponds near Lakeshore, JAT, RPR.
- GROUND DOVE -- 1, 3 Sept., near Starkville, DE (bird shot by mistake on opening day of dove season, now in Miss. State Univ. collection). (R); 1, 18 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJG (R).
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO -- 1, 15 Oct., Jackson, SP (D); 1 found freshly dead, 21 Oct., Starkville, RL (D - bird now in Miss. State Univ. collection); 1, 5 Nov., Bellefontaine Point, JAT (D).
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO -- 1, 15 Oct., Bellefontaine Point, JAT (D).
- GREAT HORNED OWL -- 2, 20 Nov., Starkville sewage ponds, WCW.
- BARRED OWL -- 5, 5 Sept., Jackson (Riverside Park), SP.
- SHORT-EARED OWL -- 1, 17 Oct., Golden Triangle airport (near Columbus), CDC; 1, 7 Nov., Hattiesburg, LJG.
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK -- abundant, 5 Sept., Noxubee NWR, JAJ; 3, 20 Sept., Archer I., Ark., NH (D).
- CHIMNEY SWIFT -- number?, 10 Oct., Jackson, JAS (D); 25, 14 Oct., Starkville, WCW (D).
- PILEATED WOODPECKER -- 6, 2 Oct., Archer I., Ark., NH (N).
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER -- 1, 1 Oct., Jackson, SP (A); 10, 15 Oct., Jackson County, JAT (N).
- EASTERN KINGBIRD -- 1, 1 Oct., Gulfport, LJG, JI, JR (D); 1, 9 Nov., near Gulfport, JAT (L).

- GRAY KINGBIRD -- 2, 8 Aug., Horn I., RPR (birds present all summer); 1, 4 Sept., Gulfport, JAT (R - one seen at same spot on 5 Sept. 1976 was omitted from last fall's report; there is only one other mainland record for Miss.).
- WESTERN KINGBIRD -- 1, 1 Oct., Pascagoula R. marsh, LJG, JI, JR (R).
- EASTERN PHOEBE -- 1, 22 Sept., Gulfport, JAT (A); 1, 16 Oct., Jackson, SP (A).
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER -- 1, 1 Oct., Jackson, SP, JAS.
- ACADIAN FLYCATCHER -- 1, 14 Sept., Noxubee NWR, WCW, CDC (D).
- Empidonax FLYCATCHER (LEAST?) -- 3, 2 Oct., Archer I., Ark., NH.
- EASTERN WOOD PEWEE -- 2, 9 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW (D); 1, 5 Nov., Bellefontaine Point, JAT; 1, 7 Nov., same place, JAT (L).
- TREE SWALLOW -- 2, 19 Aug., Pascagoula R. marsh, RPR, JAT, LCC (A); "Several hundred," 2 Oct., Archer I., Ark., NH (N); some too high to see without binoculars; 3000, 6 Nov., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA.
- BANK SWALLOW -- 800 roosting in marsh grasses, 7 Sept., Marsh Point, near Ocean Springs, RPR (N).
- BARN SWALLOW -- late nesting record: 3 young still in nest, 13 Aug., Fort Massachusetts, West Ship I., LCC; 25 Nov., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA (L); 1, 26 Nov., Waveland, JAT (L).
- CLIFF SWALLOW -- 1, 5 Sept., West Ship I., RPR.
- PURPLE MARTIN -- 500+ (many small flocks) flying N through torrential downpour, evening of 31 July, Ocean Springs, WCW (birds possibly forced out of roosting area on Deer I. or Marsh Point); 2000, 30 Aug., Bay St. Louis, RPR, JAT (N); 8, 23 Oct., Gulfport, JAT (L); "several," 23 Oct., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT (L); "several," 24 Oct., Hancock County, JAT (L).
- RED-BREADED NUTHATCH -- 1, 21 Sept., Dorman Lake, WCW (A); 1, 21 Sept., Kosciusko, JS (A); 1, 4 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJG (A); 7, 19 Oct., Choctaw Lake, WCW (N); 3 banded, 26 and 27 Oct., and recaptured occasionally until 30 Nov., Starkville, NHu; 2, 26 Nov., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA.
- BROWN CREEPER -- 1, 15 Oct., Jackson, SP (A); 1, 27 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 1, 6 Nov., Gulfport, JAT (A).
- HOUSE WREN -- 3, 26 Nov., near Starkville, MF (L); 26 Nov., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA (A).
- WINTER WREN -- 1, 30 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 1, 2 Nov., Kosciusko, JS (A).
- GRAY CATBIRD -- 3, 2 Oct., Greenville, GEA and GA.
- AMERICAN ROBIN -- Huge numbers at Starkville from 20 Nov. (500 seen) into Dec. (e.g. 2000+ on 26 Nov.); large roost located on Miss. State Univ. campus (WCW); 1, 28 Nov., Gulfport, JAT (A)
- WOOD THRUSH -- 1, 12 Oct., Jackson, SP (D).
- HERMIT THRUSH -- 1, 16 Oct., Jackson, SP (A); 26 Nov., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA (A).
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH -- 1, 22 Sept., Gulfport, JAT; 1, 25 Sept., Jackson, SP.
- EASTERN BLUEBIRD -- 20 in a flock, 9 Nov., Archer I., Ark., NH.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 1, 12 Aug., East Ship I., WCW (early migrant?); 15, 18 Sept., Gulfport, JAT (migration wave?); 1, 2 Oct., Archer I., Ark., NH (D); 2, 26 Nov., Noxubee NWR, MF (L).
- GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET -- 2, 19 Oct., Choctaw Lake, WCW (A).
- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- 1, 7 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 1, 15 Oct., Jackson County, JAT (A).

- WATER PIPIT -- 2, 30 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A).
 CEDAR WAXWING -- 20, 30 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A).
 WHITE-EYED VIREO -- 1, 19 Oct., Choctaw Lake, WCW (D).
 SOLITARY VIREO -- 26 Nov., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA (A).
 PHILADELPHIA VIREO -- 8, 12 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJG (N); 3, 15 Oct.,
 Hattiesburg, LJG.
 BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER -- 1, 26 Nov., Noxubee NWR, MF (L).
 SWAINSON'S WARBLER -- 1, 22 Aug., Buccaneer State Park, JAT, RPR.
 GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER -- 1 m, 16 Sept., Kosciusko, JS; 1, 9 Oct.,
 Hattiesburg, LJG (D).
 BLUE-WINGED WARBLER -- 1, 5 Sept., Jackson, SP; 1 m, 14 Sept., Noxubee
 NWR, CDC, WCW; 1, 16 Sept., Kosciusko, JS.
 TENNESSEE WARBLER -- 1, 15 Oct., Jackson, SP (D); 4, 6 Nov., Starkville,
 WCW (L); 1, 6-8 Nov., Kosciusko, JS (L).
 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 1, 1 Oct., Jackson, JAS (A); 11, 16 Oct.,
 Gulfport, JAT (N); 25 Nov., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA (A).
 NASHVILLE WARBLER -- 2, 5 Sept., and 1, 2 Oct., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA.
 YELLOW WARBLER -- 1, 3 Oct., Jackson, SP (D).
 MAGNOLIA WARBLER -- 1, 5 Sept., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA; 1, 7 Sept.,
 Kosciusko, JS (A); 1, 30 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW (D).
 MYRTLE (YELLOW-RUMPED) WARBLER -- 2, 6 Oct., Starkville, WCW (A); 11 Oct.,
 Jackson, JAS (A); 12, 19 Oct., Gulfport, JAT (A); 25 Nov., Yazoo
 NWR, GEA and GA (A).
 AUDUBON'S (YELLOW-RUMPED) WARBLER -- 1, 24 Oct., near Starkville, RL
 (R - detailed notes on file); 1, 31 Oct., Gulfport, JAT ("well-
 marked male").
 BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER -- 1 f or imm., 16 Aug., Gulfport, JAT (A);
12, 7 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER -- 2, 8 Aug., Horn I., RPR (early migrants).
 BAY-BREASTED WARBLER -- 1, 2 Oct., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA; 1, 15 Oct.,
 Jackson, SP (D).
 BLACKPOLL WARBLER -- 1, 2 Oct., Greenville, GEA and GA.
 PALM WARBLER -- 3, 5 Sept., Hancock County, JT (A); "abundant," 9 Oct.,
 Hattiesburg, LJG.
 NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH -- 1, 3 Sept., Gulfport, JAT (A).
 KENTUCKY WARBLER -- 3, 2 Oct., Archer I., Ark., NH (D).
 CONNECTICUT WARBLER -- 1, 5 Nov., Bellefontaine Point, JAT (L - species
 hypothetical in Miss.; description on file).
 HOODED WARBLER -- 1, 8 Aug., Horn I., RPR (early migrant); 1 m, 9 Oct.,
 Noxubee NWR, WCW (D); 1, 15 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJG (D).
 CANADA WARBLER -- 1, 5 Sept., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA; 1, 5 Sept., Jackson,
 SP; 2, 14 Sept., Noxubee NWR, CDC, WCW; 1, 19 Sept., Kosciusko, JS.
 AMERICAN REDSTART -- 2, 15 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJG (D); 1, 16 Oct.,
 Jackson, SP (D).
 NORTHERN (BALTIMORE) ORIOLE -- 4, 10 Sept., Noxubee NWR, PR; 1, 11 Sept.,
 Gulfport, JAT (A).
 RUSTY BLACKBIRD -- 1, 15 Nov., Kosciusko, JS (A); 10, 20 Nov., Starkville
 sewage ponds, WCW.
 BREWER'S BLACKBIRD -- 8, 12 Nov., Pearlinton, JAT (A).
 SCARLET Tanager -- 2, 17 Sept., Buccaneer State Park, JAT; 1, 6 Oct.,
 Starkville, WCW (D); 1, 16 Oct., Gulfport, JAT (D).
 SUMMER Tanager -- 1, 27 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJG (D); 1, 30 Oct., Gulfport,
 JAT (D)

- CARDINAL -- late breeding report: 1 newly-fledged young with ad. f, 10 Sept., Gulfport, JAT.
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK -- 1, 10 Oct., Starkville, WCW (D).
- BLUE GROSBEAK -- 2, 9 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW (D); 1, 18 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJG (D).
- INDIGO BUNTING -- 3, 5 Nov. (1, Gulfport; 1, Bellefontaine Point; 1, Pascagoula R. marsh), JAT (D); 1, 9 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1 f, 3 Nov., Kosciusko, JS.
- PAINTED BUNTING -- 1, 6 Sept., Starkville, RL (R).
- PURPLE FINCH -- 3, 16 Nov., Starkville, WCW (A); 26 Nov., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA (A).
- PINE SISKIN -- 28 (2 flocks), 30 Oct., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 7, 5 Nov., Kosciusko, JS (A); 50, 26 Nov., Noxubee NWR, MF (N); several, 9 Nov., Kosciusko, JS (A).
- AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -- 25 Nov., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA (A).
- SAVANNAH SPARROW -- 1, 3 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJG (A); 26 Nov., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA (A).
- SEASIDE SPARROW -- 30, first week of Sept., Marsh Point (near Ocean Springs), RPR (N).
- DARK-EYED JUNCO -- 2, 25 Oct., Starkville, WCW (A); 1, 2 Nov., abundant 6 Nov., Archer I., Ark., NH (A); 5 Nov., Monticello, CLB (A); 25 Nov., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA (A).
- FIELD SPARROW -- 25 Nov., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA (A).
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- 2, 20 Oct., Starkville, WCW (A); 6 Nov., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA (A).
- FOX SPARROW -- 2, 14 Nov., Noxubee NWR, CDC (A).
- SWAMP SPARROW -- 6 Nov., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA (A).
- SONG SPARROW -- 1, 15 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJG (A); 1, 28 Oct., Oktibbeha County L., WCW (A); 6 Nov., Yazoo NWR, GEA and GA (A).
- SNOW BUNTING -- 1, 14 to 23 Nov., Starkville, JAJ, CDC and many other observers (Accidental - first record for Miss.; bird photographed, trapped, and banded).

Key to Observers.-- AB = Anna Bullard; AD = Annette Duchein; AVH = Arthur V. Hays; BB = Bob Best; CDC = C. Dwight Cooley; CLB = Carl L. Bauer; DE = Danny Everett; EC = Emily Clark; EWP = E. W. Permenter; GA = Ginger Alexander; GAH = George A. Hurst; GEA = G. Edward Alexander; GT = George Thatcher; HW = Horatio Weston; JAJ = Jerome A. Jackson; JAS = Jackson Audubon Society members; JAT = Judith A. Touns; JI = John Izral; JR = Joe Runzo; JS = James Sanders; KRE = Kim R. Eckert; LCC = Leslie C. Cupp; LJG = Larry J. Gates; MF = Mike Fuller; NH = Nona Herbert; NHu = Nellie Hughes; PR = Patricia Ramey; RCB = Robert C. Bradley; RL = Ren Lohofener; RO = Roy Ollivier; RP = Rocky Patey; RPR = Robert P. Russell; SP = Steve Peterson; VAT = Van A. Truan; VO = Virginia Ollivier; WCW = Wayne C. Weber.

Key to Localities.-- Archer I., Chicot Co., Ark. (near Greenville, Miss.); Bay St. Louis, Hancock Co.; Bellefontaine Point, Jackson Co.; Biloxi, Harrison Co.; Brooklyn, Forrest Co.; Buccaneer State Park, Hancock Co.; Cat I., Harrison Co.; Choctaw L., Choctaw Co.; Dorman L., Oktibbeha Co.; East Ship I., Harrison Co.; Greenville, Washington Co.; Golden Triangle Airport, Lowndes Co.; Gulfport, Harrison Co.; Hattiesburg, Forrest Co.; Horn I., Jackson Co.; Jackson, Hinds Co.; Kosciusko, Attala Co.;

Washington, Washington Co.; Lakeshore, Hancock Co.; Long Beach, Harrison Co.; Marsh Point, Jackson Co.; Merrill, George Co.; Mississippi State Univ., Oktibbeha Co.; North I. (Chandeleur Is.), St. Bernard Parish, La.; Noxubee NWR, Oktibbeha, Noxubee, & Winston Cos.; Ocean Springs, Jackson Co.; Pascagoula, Jackson Co.; Pascagoula R. marsh, Jackson Co.; Pass Christian, Harrison Co.; Pearlinton, Hancock Co; Starkville, Oktibbeha Co.; Waveland, Hancock Co.; West Ship I., Harrison Co.; Yazoo NWR, Washington, Co.

Note to Contributors:-- Please send the Editor your sightings for the winter season (1 December to 28 February) and spring migration (1 March to 31 May) as soon as possible after the close of the respective season, or even at the end of each month, if you have time. Time permitting, we will submit 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), please 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 bird species, are desired for our nest record card file. (Nest record cards, with instructions for completing them, are available from the Editor).

Many thanks again to all our contributors, but let's try to get more records from lesser-known parts of the state!

Reviews

A Birdwatcher's Adventures in Tropical America. By Alexander F. Skutch. University of Texas Press, Austin & London, 1977: 327 pp., ink sketches, maps. \$13.95 (hardback)

This book is written in much the same style as Skutch's previous work: A Naturalist in Costa Rica (Univ. of Fla. Press, 1971). However, as the titles reflect, the book being reviewed is concerned primarily with tropical birds, their habits and lives. This book is also rich in detailed observations of the flora, geography, and people. This is evident in the titles of three of my favorite chapters: "Bird Watching During a Revolution", "Through Mexico by Train", and "Birds and Ants".

As an account of a naturalist's wanderings in tropical America, the time span covered is from the early 1930's to the present. Countries covered include Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, and Costa Rica. The account starts with Skutch working for the Arnold Arboretum as a botanist. He found that he could survive financially by collecting plant specimens for museums and universities. Later, during the war, he was employed by the United States to explore for possible sources of rubber in South America. Knowing something of the time, patience, and precision that constitute collection and preservation of plants, I can only wonder how Skutch found the time to pursue his primary passion - the observation of birds.

I believe that all potential readers will enjoy this book. When reading, it takes little imagination to see, hear, and feel the story. For those planning an excursion far to the south, the detailed descriptions of the plants, people, and birds (especially the habits, nests, and songs) will prove to be an invaluable aid.--Ren Lohofener, Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762.

A Field Guide to the Birds of Mexico. By Ernest P. Edwards. Published by the author (Sweet Briar, Virginia 24595), 1972: 300 pp., 2 maps, 24 color plates. \$8.50 (softcover)

Mexico, with its more than 1000 bird species, is attracting ever-increasing numbers of American birdwatchers. There are now two excellent Mexican field guides: Edwards' volume, and Peterson and Chalif's "A Field Guide to Mexican Birds" (Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1973). Edwards' book is the main subject of this review, but I feel obliged to make the inevitable comparisons with the Peterson guide (hereafter P&C).

In the color plates, Edwards definitely comes out second best. Of the 24 plates, 14½ are by Murrell Butler, 8 by Edwards himself, 1 by John O'Neill, and ½ by Doug Pratt. Some of Edwards' plates are poor both in

artwork and, even more so, in color reproduction (e.g. Pl. 17 - who ever heard of a Rufous-backed Robin with a yellow back?). On the other hand, some of Butler's plates, and O'Neill's plate of parrots, are excellent. Several plates suffer from overcrowding; Edwards covers in 24 plates essentially the same species that P&C cover in 48. Both books omit illustrating virtually all species found north of Mexico, so that the birder in Mexico will have to take along his North American field guides as well as one or both Mexican guides.

In the text itself, I would rate Edwards better than P&C, at least partly because Edwards' species accounts average longer. The biggest deficiency is the lack of "Similar Species" paragraphs like those in P&C, telling one exactly how to tell Species X from its similar relatives; this is only partly rectified by lists of potentially confusing species in the family descriptions. However, the species descriptions themselves are more complete, with important field marks italicized. Edwards generally gives more details than P&C on elevation ranges (important in a mountainous country like Mexico!), habitats, and behavior. He also includes Spanish common names and condensed Spanish descriptions, which may be helpful. Both books give capsule accounts only of distribution, which are often vague, inaccurate, or outdated; an 8-page looseleaf insert (dated 1976) provided with Edwards' book helps to correct this. For information on specific birding localities, readers are referred to Edwards' "Finding Birds in Mexico", 2nd ed. (published by the author, 1968), and its 1976 supplement (see review in Mississippi Kite 7(2):58-59, 1977).

In summary, I would highly recommend Edwards' book to any birder visiting Mexico. Although the plates are outclassed by those in the Peterson guide, the text is generally more informative, and I would be loath to visit Mexico without taking both books along.--Wayne C. Weber, Box Z, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762.

The Book of Owls. By Lewis Wayne Walker. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, 1974: 256 pp., black-and-white photographs, 1 map. \$12.50 (hardback).

This fact-filled book, published three years after the death of the author, represents one of the finest additions to our knowledge of the owls of North America. It culminates a fifty-five year love affair between Lewis Wayne Walker and the birds he loved most, the owls.

The fourteen chapters, thirteen of which deal with major species of North America, contain 94 black-and-white photographs, most taken by the author himself. The species accounts range from information on the tiny, moth-like Elf Owl of the southwestern United States to the Great Gray and Hawk Owl of the Canadian north country. Each chapter contains a wealth of scientific knowledge about a particular species, along with

some of Walker's own personal experiences. It is evident that thousands of hours of observation were required to produce such an amazing amount of fact and knowledge.

Walker's life-long dedication to ornithology and owls in particular is best portrayed by George E. Lindsay of the California Academy of Sciences in the forward of The Book of Owls. It reads:

"Lew Walker was a born naturalist. As a child he haunted the woods and fields and marshes near his home on Long Island Sound. As a young man he spent ninety-six nights in the bell tower of the First Congregational Church in Flushing, Long Island, studying and photographing a pair of Barn Owls nesting there, and learning that they brought 758 rats and mice to feed their chicks. This study marked the beginning of Lew's long interest in owls."

This book would be a welcomed addition to anyone's library, especially those interested in owls.--C. Dwight Cooley, Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

A Guide to the Birds of Panama. By Robert S. Ridgely. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 1976: 394 pp., line drawings, 32 color plates, maps. \$15.00 (hardback).

Although Panama is approximately the same size as Mississippi, this Latin American country has nearly three times as many bird species - 883 species in Panama as opposed to about 330 in Mississippi. In fact, there are more species known from Panama than from all of North America! With this diversity in mind, one can easily imagine the enormity of the task of preparing a field guide for the area. Robert Ridgely has succeeded admirably with this book. A Guide to the Birds of Panama follows the general format of the Peterson field guides, but includes much additional information. For example, there are tables of climatic data, lists of migrant species and rare visitors, and an appendix on finding birds in Panama. The color illustrations of nearly 650 species by John A. Gwynne, Jr. are generally well done and greatly enhance the value of this guide. All royalties from sales of this book are to go to the International Council for Bird Preservation U.S. Section for Conservation in Panama. As one reviewer put it, A Guide to the Birds of Panama is truly a "labor of love."--J.A. Jackson, Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762.

Fundamentals of Ornithology. By Josselyn Van Tyne and Andrew J. Berger, John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1976: XVIII + 808 pp., 528 illus. \$23.95.

The many advances in ornithology since 1958 make this second edition of Van Tyne and Berger's Fundamentals of Ornithology a welcome addition to the library of most advanced and serious beginning students of ornithology. The new edition incorporates many recent breakthroughs in ornithological knowledge, such as Ostrom's recent findings on the origin of birds, with a good basic coverage of ornithological fundamentals. In addition, there are liberal literature citations within the text as well as at the end of each chapter; these will help the interested student find further information on subjects of particular interest.

Other changes in the new edition include an increase from 254 to 528 illustrations, the expansion of the chapter on breeding biology to two chapters, the addition of a section on physiology, and the addition of two new families (Rhabdornithidae and Climacteridae) to the chapter on bird families of the world. Regrettably these improvements have necessitated the deletion of the glossary and the section on ornithological sources. The loss of the former is especially serious in that it decreases the usefulness of the book - especially for the beginning ornithology student who often tends to skip over unfamiliar words rather than look up the definition in another book. Generally, however, the book provides a concise, readable introduction to ornithology. It is invaluable both as a text for beginning students and a reference for the advanced student.--Bette Schardien, Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762

The World of Roger Tory Peterson. By John C. Devlin and Grace Naismith. Times Books, New York, 1977: 266 pp., several black-and-white drawings, black-and-white photographs, and 15 color plates by Roger Tory Peterson. \$14.95.

Roger Tory Peterson is known to all of us as the author of "A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America" and the author or illustrator of several other field guides and books on natural history. While his name is a "household" word among the bird-watching fraternity, most probably know little of Roger's fascinating career and multiplicity of talents. In this biography by John Devlin and Grace Naismith you will share Roger's early adventures with birds in New York, learn of his struggles as an artist and his first job painting Chinese decorations on lacquered furniture, and how he put his identification system to work during the second world war in teaching soldiers to identify enemy aircraft. You will find his human strengths and weaknesses revealed in the accounts of his three marriages and his various expeditions around the globe. Here is a biography that "tells it like it is" - both the good and the bad. Once I started the book I could hardly bear to put it down. I highly recommend it to you.--J.A. Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762.

Manual of Neotropical Birds, Volume I. By Emmet R. Blake, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1977: 674 pp., keys, several wash drawings and color plates, 237 maps. \$50.00.

This mammoth volume is the first of a four volume series on the birds of tropical Mexico, Central and South America. This region of the world includes more than one-third of all living bird species and in recent years has been the "hot spot" for discovery of new species. Emmet Blake has spent 48 years in the field and laboratory collecting data and preparing this comprehensive and authoritative series. This first volume includes the families Spheniscidae (penguins) through Laridae (gulls and allies) and includes illustrations of 225 species. The book begins with a synopsis of the families with a simple line drawing along with a brief paragraph describing the salient behavioral, morphological and ecological characteristics of each. Within the body of the book there is a key to species for each family followed by technical descriptions, measurements, and notes on distribution of each species and subspecies. The plates by Richard V. Keane and Guy Tudor are outstanding and contribute immensely to the value of the book. Because of its size, technical nature, and lack of illustrations for most forms, this is obviously not a field guide. I'm sure, however, that this series will quickly become a standard and much appreciated reference for students of Neotropical ornithology.--J.A. Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762

The Hen Harrier. By Donald Watson, T & A D Poyser, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, England, 1977: 307 pp., numerous black-and-white sketches, 4 color plates of adults, nests, eggs, and young harriers. 6.80 pounds.

The Hen Harrier is a very close relative of our Marsh Hawk and this book will be of special interest to anyone interested in Marsh Hawks or birds of prey in general. Donald Watson has studied Hen Harriers since the 1940's and has watched their population fluctuations and studied various aspects of their natural history in great detail. This monograph brings together not only his extensive experiences but also most of the world's literature on Marsh Hawks and their relatives. It is written in a non-technical language but with sufficient scientific detail to be of value to the professional as well as stimulating reading for the avid amateur ornithologist.--J.A. Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762.

THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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Organized 30 April 1955

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