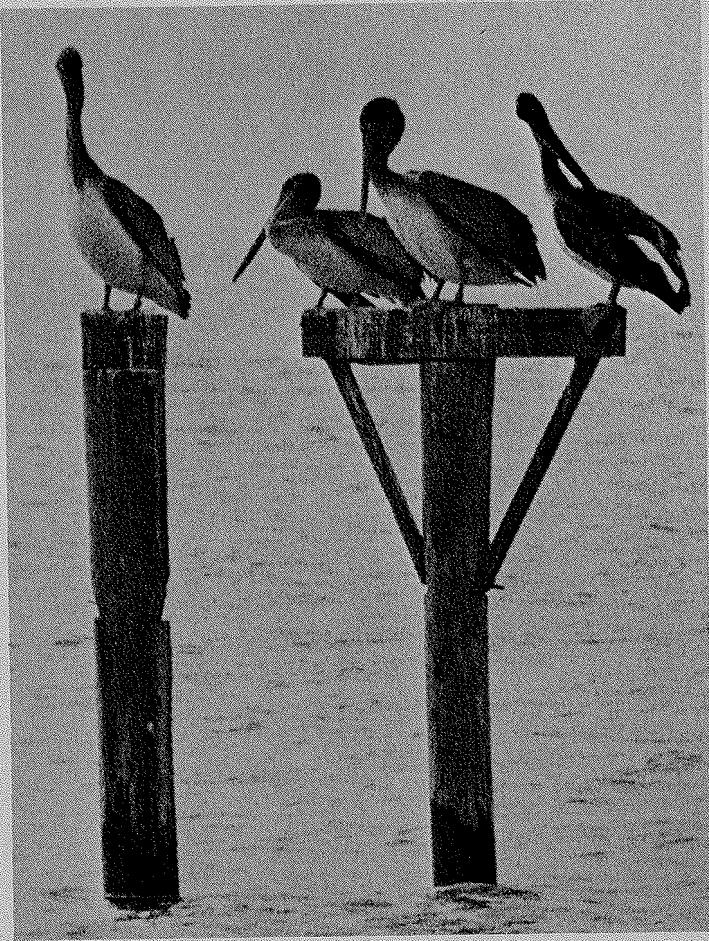


THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

Vol. 8 (2)

December 1978



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

Vol. 8, No. 2

December 1978

Contents

SNOWY PLOVERS NESTING ON THE MAINLAND IN MISSISSIPPI	
	Martha B. Hays 34
NESTING OF THE DICKCISSEL IN HINDS COUNTY	
	William H. Turcotte 37
A LATE NESTING OF THE CAROLINA WREN IN HINDS COUNTY	
	William H. Turcotte 39
A RED-NECKED GREBE IN HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI	
	Larry Gates and J. Richard Moore 40
HUDSONIAN GODWITS AT PASCAGOULA, MISSISSIPPI	
	Peter V. Donaldson 41
SOOTY TERNS ON HORN ISLAND, MISSISSIPPI	
	Jerome A. Jackson, C. Dwight Cooley, and Bette J. Schardien 42
WHAT CONSTITUTES A VALID RARE BIRD RECORD?	
	Jerome A. Jackson 43
BIRDS AROUND THE STATE: DECEMBER 1977 THROUGH NOVEMBER 1978	
	compiled by Jerome A. Jackson and C. Dwight Cooley 48
MINUTES OF THE MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING	
MEETING, APRIL 21 and 22, 1978-----	Judith Toups 63
REVIEWS-----	65
M.O.S. OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION-----	Back Cover

Front Cover: Young Brown Pelicans on the Mississippi coast,
September, 1978. These were wing-tagged birds, apparently
part of a group released in Louisiana. (Photo by Sonny
Pippin, staff photographer for The Sun-Herald, Biloxi, Ms.)

Snowy Plovers Nesting on the Mainland in Mississippi

Martha B. Hays

Department of Biological Sciences
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

During May and June 1977, I observed Snowy Plovers (Charadrius alexandrinus) in the protected Least Tern (Sterna albifrons) nesting area on the beach in Mississippi City, Mississippi. On 16 May 1978, I again found Snowy Plovers in the same area. While marking Least Tern nests on 30 May 1978, I discovered a Snowy Plover nest with 3 eggs on an elevated sand "island" planted with beach grasses (Panicum amarulum and Cortaderia selloana). The nest (Fig. 1) was a depression in the sand, lined with small bits of shell, and situated amid the P. amarulum. The plover nest was much more sheltered by vegetation than were any of the Least Tern nests. I had observed a Snowy Plover near this hummock on several occasions (Fig. 2), and on 31 May, between 19:30 and 19:45, I watched a Snowy Plover skitter around the island several times, approach the nest, then run off quickly -- at least 3 times -- before it finally entered the edge of the tall grass and sat on the eggs.



Figure 1. Snowy Plover nest and eggs at Mississippi City, Mississippi.

The eggs measured as follows: (1) 32.3 x 23.3 mm, 8.3 g; (2) 32.4 x 22.8 mm, 8.0 g; (3) 33.7 x 22.8 mm, 8.3 g. On 5 June 1978, at 17:00, egg 3 had hatched and the chick was near the nest. Eggs 1 and 2 were pipped. The chick was still slightly wet and weighed 6.5 g. That day I watched 2 adult Snowy Plovers that were in the area of the nest; one was slightly darker in color than the other. The following day the nest was empty. I saw adult Snowy Plovers in the same general area until 5 August. At times I observed them giving a distraction display with tail spread and wings beating the sand. However, I was never certain that I saw any Snowy Plover chick after 5 June.

Snowy Plovers have been recorded nesting on Horn Island, a barrier island in the Mississippi Sound (Bent 1929), but I know of no other nest records for the Mississippi mainland. In Alabama the Snowy Plover has been recorded nesting on the deserted sand islands along the Gulf coast and rarely near settled areas (Imhof 1976). These plovers are also known to nest on the Texas coast and in northwest Florida, but not on the Louisiana coast (Lowery 1974).



Figure 2. An adult Snowy Plover near its nest at Mississippi City.

Snowy Plovers have been observed nesting with Least Terns on Mellum Island in the North Sea (Goethe 1940), in Orange County, California (Massey 1974), and on the salt plains in north-central Oklahoma and south-central Kansas (Hardy 1957). The Snowy Plover is currently on the Blue List (Arbib 1977), and Lowery (1974) considered it a "top candidate" for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service list of endangered species. It appears that this rare little shorebird has taken advantage of the refuge from human disturbance set aside for the more apparent Least Tern. It thereby provides added reason to maintain the protected areas.

I thank Wayne Weber and Virginia and Roy Ollivier who observed the birds and nest with me on 31 May and 5 June, respectively. Dr. Sidney McDaniel of Mississippi State University identified the beach grasses for me.

Literature Cited

- Arbib, R. S. 1977. The Blue List for 1978. *Am. Birds* 31:1087-1096.
- Bent, A. C. 1929. Life histories of North American shorebirds. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 146.
- Goethe, F. 1940. Die Vogelinsel Mellum. *Abh. Geb. Vogelkunde* 4:1-110.
- Hardy, J. W. 1957. The Least Tern in the Mississippi Valley. *Publ. Mus. Mich. State Univ. Biol. Ser.* 1:1-60.
- Imhof, T. A. 1976. Alabama birds, 2nd ed. University of Alabama Press, University, Alabama.
- Lowery, G. H., Jr. 1974. Louisiana birds, 3rd ed. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Massey, B. W. 1974. Breeding biology of the California Least Tern. *Proc. Linnaean Soc. N.Y.* 72:1-24.

Nesting of the Dickcissel in Hinds County

William H. Turcotte

Route 7, Box 157
Jackson, Mississippi 39209

On 4 May 1978, following an afternoon thundershower, I visited the John Bell Williams airport near Raymond, Mississippi. Several Dickcissels (*Spiza americana*) were singing in the pastures. One male Dickcissel was singing from the top of a black locust tree which was in a strip of several acres of tall grasses, weeds, briars, and low bushes on the airport property between the paved access road and an adjacent, open pasture. The bird sang persistently from several other perches on nearby locust sprouts.

I returned on 6 May and found the male singing from the same perches. Two other male Dickcissels were singing from a nearby utility wire along the airport boundary and pasture fence. On 7 May I went again to the site with my wife, Annie Cook. We observed one male singing from several perches and located a female carrying nest material to a weed and blackberry clump surrounded by tall fescue grass (Fig. 1). The female gathered nest material from nearby patches of dead broomsedge. She made 5 or 6 trips to the nest site as we watched. Each time she left the nest, the male left his singing perch and chased or followed until she started to gather nest material. He then resumed singing from a nearby perch. He did not follow her to the nest, nor did he assist in gathering nest material.

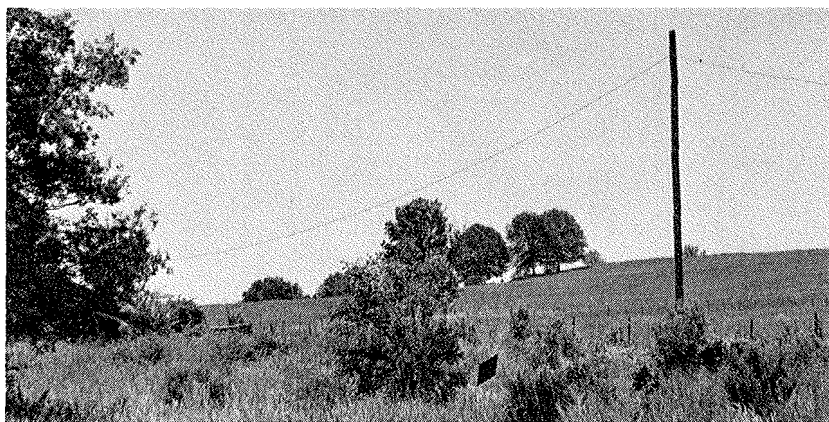


Figure 1. Nest site (pointer) and nesting habitat of Dickcissels at the Raymond Airport, Hinds County, Mississippi.

On 14 May I examined the nest and photographed the nesting habitat. The nest was a cup of coarse grasses, loosely woven to the supporting vegetation, and lined with finer grass and a little hair. It contained 2 eggs. The nest was built in a clump of dead goldenrod stalks about 30 cm above the ground. The new growth of goldenrod, blackberry canes, and tall grass growing around the clump concealed the nest from view. On 16 May, John Phares and I returned and photographed the nest and 4 eggs (Fig. 2). The nesting pair was observed near the nest.

Charles L. Stockard (1905) recorded finding 14 Dickcissel nests in a Mississippi vetch field. He collected 11 sets of 5 eggs each and 3 sets of 4 eggs between 9 and 23 May 1900. The nesting locality was not specified. B. R. Warriner (1935) recorded a nesting population of 12 Dickcissels in Alcorn County, 3 miles west of Corinth on 20 May 1935. He had also seen them in the area in several prior years. Egg records in the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science collection substantiate nesting in Coahoma, Lafayette, Panola, and Washington counties. Egg record dates extend from 9 May to 19 June. Museum specimen and sight records between 10 May and 20 June further substantiate occurrence of this species during the breeding period in Bolivar, Hinds, Lee, Madison, Sunflower, Warren, and Yazoo counties. June breeding bird surveys conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and cooperators from 1966 through 1976 indicate occurrence and possible breeding in 12 other Mississippi counties. These counties are listed as follows, showing



Figure 2. Dickcissel nest and eggs, Raymond Airport, Hinds County.

the number of years Dickcissels were recorded on each route, number of years each route was run, and the total number of Dickcissels seen or heard on each route: Adams (3,11,4), DeSoto (9,11,37 and 6,11,20), Holmes (6,7,61), Humphreys (8,8,131), Jefferson (3,11,7), Lincoln (1,9,1), Marion (1,11,1), Monroe (5,5,109), Montgomery (1,8,1), Noxubee (5,8,55), Tunica (4,4,269 and 11,11,464), and Webster (2,4,2). Casual breeding is suggested by the above records for the Yazoo Delta and for the Black Prairie belt in northeast Mississippi.

Alfred O. Gross (in Bent 1968) described the Dickcissel as "very erratic in its distribution. Its numbers, even in the center of its nesting range, fluctuate greatly from year to year. A locality may have an abundance of Dickcissels, only to have them disappear in a few years." In western Hinds County, in recent years, I have observed male Dickcissels calling at several different locations during May and early June. On the Interstate-20 interchange at Bolton in 1977, I saw a male calling from a signpost on several occasions. Twice its mate was present in a nearby growth of vetch, weeds, and grasses. I searched the area for a nest but failed to find one. On 14 May 1978, I saw 3 or more singing males at the same interchange and in a nearby cornfield that was growing up in weeds and vetch. Another singing male was seen in an overgrown, weedy area adjoining a ryegrass pasture south of Brownsville. These observations and the above-cited nesting record extend the known nesting range of the Dickcissel to central Hinds County.

Literature Cited

- Bent, A.C. 1968. Life histories of North American cardinals, grosbeaks, buntings, towhees, finches, sparrows, and allies. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 237.
 Stockard, C. R. 1905. Nesting habits of birds in Mississippi. Auk 22:273.
 Warriner, B. R. 1935. Notes from Corinth, Mississippi. Migrant 6:35.

A Late Nesting of the Carolina Wren in Hinds County

William H. Turcotte

Route 7, Box 157
 Jackson, Mississippi 39209

On 5 August 1978 I discovered a nest of the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) on a narrow ledge between 2 studs of the garage wall at my home in Jackson, Mississippi. The typical nest contained 3 eggs when found and on 8 August a wren was incubating 4 eggs. On 22 August the nest held 3 newly-hatched young and one egg. That egg hatched on the following day. When I placed a finger in the nest on 4 September, all 4 nestlings flew the width of the garage, or more, and scampered to places of concealment. I know of no later nesting record for this species.

A Red-necked Grebe in Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Larry Gates and J. Richard Moore

Box 8195
University of Southern
Mississippi, Hattiesburg, 39401Box 5087
University of Southern
Mississippi, Hattiesburg, 39401

A Red-necked Grebe (Podiceps grisegena) was seen by several observers at the Hattiesburg sewage lagoons during the second week of December, 1978. It was first seen by Larry Gates on 9 December, but was only tentatively identified because of poor lighting conditions. The bird was seen again and positively identified on 10 December by Richard Moore, on 11 December by Larry Gates, and on 12 December by Judy Toups and Bob Wood. The following field characteristics were seen through a 20 x spotting scope and with binoculars. The Red-necked Grebe was seen from as close as 100 m and in excellent light.

Size.-The Red-necked Grebe was larger than a Horned (Podiceps auritus) or Eared (P. nigricollis) grebe. Direct comparisons were made with both Horned and Eared grebes. The Red-necked Grebe's neck was comparatively longer and thicker and its body was longer and heavier.

Head.-The Red-necked Grebe's head was held high and erect and was larger than that of the other grebe species. There was a prominent white patch on the cheek which curled up to the ear region and there was a strong contrast between the white on the face and the gray neck. The head was very triangular. The top of the head appeared somewhat flat because of a lack of curvature to the forehead. The top of the head looked like a black triangle, wide in the back and coming to a point in front.

Bill.-The Red-necked Grebe's bill was yellow and quite large in comparison with the bill of the other grebes.

Wing markings.-There were 2 white marks on each wing: a square patch near the body on the trailing edge and a white line from the wrist to the body on the leading edge. The Red-necked Grebe was seen in flight twice.

Behavior and other characteristics.-The Red-necked Grebe appeared to be in good health. It flew strongly and dove frequently. It swam about surprisingly fast. When it flew and when it swam, the legs were so far back that they seemed to be coming out at the tail. After consulting several field guides, we decided that this individual was remarkably similar to the illustration of a winter-plumaged Red-necked Grebe on p. 21 of Birds of North America by Robbins et al. (1966, Golden Press, New York).

We believe this to be the first observation of this species in Mississippi.

Hudsonian Godwits at Pascagoula, Mississippi

Peter V. Donaldson

501 Patton Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

On 13 May 1978, James S. Perkins and I were watching birds at a large shallow pond at the spoils area south of U.S. Highway 90 in Pascagoula, Mississippi, near the Ingalls West Bank Shipyard. At about 10:30 CST the sky was completely clear and the sun was high in the sky behind us. The temperature was in the high 70's and a light wind was from the northwest. Out in the shallow water of the pond, about 60-70 meters away, a large number of shorebirds were feeding. There were dowitchers (Limnodromus sp.), Stilt Sandpipers (Micropalama himantopus), Black-necked Stilts (Himantopus mexicanus), and American Avocets (Recurvirostra americana). While observing these birds through a Questar telescope at 40 and 60X magnification we noticed a large, brownish bird with a long upcurved bill. The bird's bill was orange at the base and black at the tip. Because of the distinctive bill, we identified the bird as a godwit (Limosa sp.). The bird appeared to be about 3 inches longer than nearby dowitchers and was brownish-gray above with a rufous breast. While we were watching, the godwit flew and we could see white markings on the wings and a white rump. We saw the bird land in another part of the pond and after viewing some other shorebirds we walked over to where we had seen the godwit land. At somewhat closer range we again spotted the godwit through the Questar. The bird's rufous breast was clearly visible. Because of the rufous breast, white rump, and wing stripes, and the size of the bird, we decided it was a Hudsonian Godwit (Limosa haemastica) rather than a Marbled Godwit (Limosa fedoa), and it is highly unlikely that it could have been a Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) because of the European range of that species.

After leaving the spoils area, Jim and I talked to Judith Toups and she told us that the Hudsonian Godwit was a rare bird in this area with no Mississippi sightings on record. I returned to the same spot at the Pascagoula spoils area at about 16:30 the same afternoon with Judith Toups, Malcolm Hodges, and Bob and Diane Best, and we found two Hudsonian Godwits. One bird looked like the one I had seen in the morning while the other bird was a dull gray with no rufous breast coloration. The second bird also had the white rump and wing stripes however. I took a series of photographs of the birds through my Questar at focal lengths of 1600-1800 mm (magnification 32-36X) and at distances of 30-80 meters. The photography was done using Ektachrome 200 and Kodacolor 400 at f16-18 and shutter speeds of 1/60-1/250. In the afternoon it was still cloudless with the sun at right angles to our viewing direction. The late afternoon temperature was in the mid 80's and the northwest wind had increased to about 15 knots from the west with gusts to 20 knots.

(Ed. Note: Prints of Pete Donaldson's slides are filed at Mississippi State and confirm the identity of these Hudsonian Godwits as the first Mississippi record. The birds at Pascagoula may have been a part of a larger movement; 15 Hudsonian Godwits were seen the same day at Swan Creek Wildlife Mgmt. Area, Decatur, Alabama, (D.M. Brown, pers. comm.).)

Sooty Terns on Horn Island, Mississippi

Jerome A. Jackson, C. Dwight Cooley, and Bette J. Schardien

Department of Biological Sciences
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

On 14 October 1978, at about 07:30, Cooley saw a dark tern flying over the Gulf of Mexico south of Horn Island; he was unable to identify the bird because of its distance from the island. At 10:15 Jackson discovered and photographed a Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*, Fig. 1) on the Gulf beach of the island. The tern appeared exhausted and it allowed Jackson to approach within one meter before flying. On the morning of 15 October, all of us observed at least three Sooty Terns feeding in the Gulf south of Horn Island. Our observations of Sooty Terns on Horn Island had been preceded by strong southerly winds during the night of 13-14 October.

While the Sooty Tern is a rare bird in Mississippi, there are two specimen records for the state. Oliver L. Austin, Jr. found a Sooty Tern on Petit Bois Island that had been dead for about two weeks on 17 June 1956 (Newman 1956), and Roy Stephens collected a female on 20 September 1957, near Canton, Madison County (Gandy and Turcotte 1970). Sooty Terns are known to nest in the Chandeleur Islands of Louisiana (Lowery 1974), and there are several records of the species from Alabama (Imhof 1976). Several authors (e.g., Imhof 1976) have commented on the association of Sooty Tern records from the northern Gulf coast with the passage of Gulf storms.

Literature Cited

- Gandy, B.E. and W. H. Turcotte. 1970. Catalog of Mississippi bird records State Wildlife Museum, Jackson, Mississippi.
Imhof, T.A. 1976. Alabama birds. University of Alabama Press, University.
Lowery, G.H., Jr. 1974. Louisiana birds. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge.
Newman, R.J. 1956. Central Southern Region. Audubon Field Notes 10:387-390.

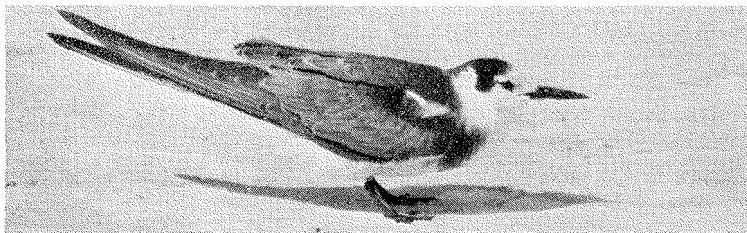


Figure 1. Sooty Tern photographed on Horn Island, Mississippi, 14 Oct. 1978.

What Constitutes a Valid Rare Bird Record?

Jerome A. Jackson

Department of Biological Sciences
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

In the not too distant past, the addition of new bird species to a state list was a matter of interest to only a few individuals. Verification of such records usually required a specimen which was deposited in a museum collection. Today, scores of birders in every state have an interest in bird distribution records. While specimens still constitute valid scientific records, they are not the only records that are acceptable today. Indeed, when considering the declining populations of some species, the aesthetic and educational value of observing the living bird, and the role of public opinion in shaping our laws and permit regulations, a collected specimen may not be the "best" record. The acceptance of other than specimen records by the scientific community has come about as a result of the interaction of a number of scientific, cultural, and political factors. Foremost among these are the following five: (1) changed research interests among professional ornithologists, (2) increased recognition of the important role of amateurs in furthering our knowledge of birds, (3) increased legal restrictions on bird collecting, (4) increased knowledge of the North American avifauna and decreased interest in "subspecies" with a concomitant decrease in availability of new records to be obtained, and (5) increased availability of inexpensive, quality photographic equipment - primarily the 35 mm single lens reflex and associated telephoto lenses.

The contribution of amateurs to the development of American ornithology has been substantial, but at the same time, professional ornithologists have made reciprocal contributions to the popularizing of bird-watching. That is, it has been a two-way street - amateurs and professionals - the science and the avocation of ornithology have grown in stature as a result of association. This relationship has resulted from an exchange in trust. To foster the further growth of bird study, we must maintain this trust. The professional should not collect when collecting is not necessary; he should be willing to present occasional garden club and school programs on birds; he should be willing to assist the amateur in developing identification skills. In turn, the amateur should recognize that collecting of specimens does play a role in furthering our knowledge of birds, and he should be willing to meet rigorous standards to have his bird records accepted.

What constitutes a valid rare bird record today? Specimens and good photographs are nearly of equal acceptability. Good sound recordings may rank next. Sight records vary in their acceptability depending on who the observer was, what previous experience the observer had with the species, how many additional observers saw the bird, what kind of bird it was, where it was, how long it was observed, when it was seen, and what the viewing conditions were. Sight records place a poor fourth in terms of scientific

credibility when compared with specimens, photographs, or sound recordings. In the following paragraphs I will comment briefly on the nature of these types of records and how the amateur can best contribute to our knowledge of bird distribution.

Specimen records.--A specimen record that adequately documents the occurrence of a species in an area usually is a whole bird that is prepared as a study skin, but other types of specimen records may also be suitable. A single feather might be sufficient documentation for some birds. A skeleton, infertile egg, nest taken after young have fledged, or other physical evidence of the bird's presence can be worthy documentation.

Some important records have been established by specimens of birds that have been hit by cars, or that have flown into windows, TV towers, etc. For example, the first record of a Red Crossbill (Loxia curvirostra) in Mississippi was of a bird that had been hit by a car. Distribution records of some game birds have frequently been documented by specimens obtained by hunters during hunting season. The King Eider (Somateria spectabilis) was added to the Mississippi checklist as a result of such a specimen. Except for game birds obtained under the authority of a valid hunting license, special Federal and State permits are usually required before one can collect or possess any type of bird specimen. All non-game bird specimens ultimately have to be deposited in a scientific or educational institution.

If you find a dead bird of unusual significance, plug its mouth and any wounds with cotton or tissue. Smooth the feathers into lifelike position. Then wrap the bird carefully in paper, place it in a plastic bag, seal it, and freeze it until it can be delivered to an appropriate specimen collection.

Photographic records.--Photographic records have become increasingly in vogue and have numerous advantages over specimen records. They can be obtained by almost anyone, anytime, and anywhere, without need for a permit. Getting the record presents no danger to people or property, and these records leave the bird free to challenge other birders. The obvious disadvantage is that a physical specimen is not available for measuring and comparing with other specimens. The prevalence of bird banders in most parts of the country, however, allows the possibility that, with special effort, the rare bird might be trapped, banded, photographed, and measured for the record. Mississippi's first Snow Bunting (Plectrophenax nivalis) record came about in precisely this manner. I should make special note here that for firm establishment of the "record," the photograph is very important.

Unless the bird is "in the hand" or for some reason can be approached very closely, some sort of telephoto lens is usually needed. The most popular camera-lens combination is a 35 mm single lens reflex with a 400 mm telephoto lens. Smaller lenses simply do not "bring the bird

up close enough" for quality photographs unless the bird is particularly cooperative or you have time to entice the bird close to a photographic blind. Larger lenses (e.g., 600 mm) often require so much light that good photos can be obtained only on sunny days in open habitat. Larger lenses also are more difficult to work with because of the necessity for a firmer tripod mounting. Of course quality lenses are available in focal lengths of 600 mm or more and some fine bird photographs can be made with them. In terms of expense and versatility, however, my preference is the 400 mm lens.

To establish a record for a rare or unusual species, photographic quality, while desirable, is not necessary, as long as the bird can be clearly identified in the photograph. It is worth trying to photograph such a bird with the simplest of box cameras if nothing else is available. A few years ago a dog trainer in Louisiana photographed an Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) with a simple "instamatic" camera - and the bird is clearly identifiable in the pictures. Unfortunately, those photographs may be too good. The bird did not flinch as its picture was being taken and some have suggested that the photos might be a hoax - pictures of a stuffed bird that was hung on a tree. Oh for a lousy picture of that bird taken just as it was turning its head or flicking its wings or even blinking! If you have a rare bird located and you do not have the photographic equipment to capture the record, don't forget that your local newspaper probably has a professional photographer with the equipment and the skill to use it. If you approach him with an air of excitement and tale of the scientific importance and newsworthiness of documenting the record, you might find a helpful and interested friend.

What film should you use? If possible, take photographs with both black-and-white and color film. Most publications can only afford to publish black-and-white photographs and black-and-white prints made from color slides or negatives are generally of poor quality. On the other hand, only with color film can you document distinctive color features of the bird. I personally prefer slower, finer-grained films such as Kodak's Plus-X for black-and-white, and Kodak's Kodachrome 25 for color slides. These produce sharper pictures under good light conditions. In poor light, however, faster films must be used.

Sound records.--A tape-recording of bird sounds can be as firm a scientific record as a photograph. In the past rather expensive, complicated equipment was needed in order to record bird sounds. Today, as with photographic equipment, portable tape-recorders, sound parabolas, and directional microphones are readily available and are being used by amateurs as well as by professionals. Increasing interest in bird vocalizations has paralleled the development of technology to record and analyze the sounds. Today sound laboratories, such as one at the Florida State Museum in Gainesville, are collecting bird songs much as the ornithologists of an earlier generation collected bird skins. Sound recordings that document important bird records should be deposited in such a collection.

Sight records.--Here we are at the crux of many a controversy between the excited amateur with a new discovery and the professional who says "prove it." When is a sight record not a valid record? When is it not well documented. Even the most experienced birder makes mistakes in identifying birds. A fleeting glance of a rare bird is not worth much unless several persons saw it and independently identified it. Even a good long look by several persons can result in mistaken identification as a result of the power of suggestion. I will never forget a Christmas Bird Count that I participated in on which a member of my party spotted a Turkey across a field. It was overcast and late afternoon, but one-by-one five of us took a peek through a 20 X spotting scope and saw the gobbler's head and back raised just above the weeds. Everyone agreed on the identification and all were excited. In hopes of flushing more from the stubble, two of us set out across the field - only to find an oddly shaped stump with a broken branch propped against it!

"But," you say "my bird was not a stick-bird! It was a living flying whatchamacallit and I saw it very well and I know that's what it was! How dare you question my record!"

Perhaps you did see a whatchamacallit. The problem is that if all of the records that people were "sure" of were accepted without question, a lot of mistakes would be made. You may be sure and you may be absolutely right, but no one else can be certain without some sort of documentation. Ornithology is not an exact science like physics, but as scientists, ornithologists strive for accuracy. Without accuracy our knowledge of birds becomes a guessing game. Documentation of important records is as much a requirement for the professional as it is for the amateur. Without it the ornithologist loses credibility. If you present a record of a rare bird to the scientific community, be prepared to support it in scientific fashion.

Most state organizations require a specimen or a photograph of a new bird before the bird can be officially placed on the state list. Reported sightings of new birds that have not been so verified usually result in the addition of that species to the "hypothetical" list for the state. Multiple sightings of the species by multiple observers are sometimes accepted in lieu of other records as sufficient documentation for "listing" the bird. The Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) is considered worthy of listing in Alabama as a result of such repeated sightings (T. Imhof, pers. comm.).

If your rare records are not going to be accepted when you know very well what you saw, is it not a waste of time to report them? Emphatically no! One brick doesn't make a wall. But brick upon brick added to it makes the wall begin to take shape. Your "bricks" can be very important. Lay them firmly. If the only record you can get of a rare bird is your observation, make the most of it. Spread the word. The more people who see it the better. Describe everything you see as precisely as possible.

Where was the bird? What kind of habitat? What was it doing? How long did you observe it? Who else saw it? What were the viewing conditions? How far away was it? What were distinctive features of its plumage? Could you see eye color? Bill color? Leg color? Wing bars? Markings in the tail? On the crown? Through the eye? How did it fly? Were there other birds near it? If so, how did the unusual bird compare in size, shape, and behavior?

Answers to these and other questions can ultimately assist you in proving to yourself and others that you saw what you thought you did. Note these things immediately - preferably you should write them down or at least say them aloud to your companions as you are making the observations - and before you begin to dig into the text of your field guide for "help" in describing your bird. Do not wait until you return home to begin making a record of your sighting. Before long what you thought you saw and what your field guide describes begin to merge. It happens to the best of us. It is a bad sign if you were not certain of the identification when you saw the bird but became more and more convinced as time passed. If you were not convinced immediately and remained convinced, there is a good chance you have made a mistake. In the end, if there has never been any doubt in your mind about the identification, copy the details from your field notes and submit them along with any other documentation to your state journal. Even if the record is not published, it will generally become part of the permanent file and could be the first brick in a new wall.

Birds Around the State: December 1977 through November 1978

Compiled by Jerome A. Jackson and C. Dwight Cooley

Department of Biological Sciences
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

The following is a summary of noteworthy bird sightings in Mississippi and some immediately adjacent areas for the 1977-78 winter season, Spring migration, nesting season, and Fall migration. The list of sightings is followed by a key to observers initials and another key identifying all localities mentioned. The significance of sightings is indicated by a capital letter in parentheses following a record. These letters and their meanings are as follows: (A) = arrival date; (D) = departure date for migratory species; (E) = exceptionally early date; (L) = exceptionally late date; (N) = large number; (R) = species rare in the area; (C) = species casual or accidental (of less than annual occurrence) in Mississippi.

Abbreviations used include the following: m = male; f = female; juv = juvenile; ad = adult; subad = subadult; imm = immature; pr = pair; pl = plumage; BBS = Breeding Bird Survey; CBC = Christmas Bird Count; m. ob. = many observers.

All contributors please note instructions at the end of this article before submitting records.

- COMMON LOON -- 40, 3 Dec., Ross Barnett Res., MOS (N); 31, 20 Dec., Gulfport harbor, WCW (N); 50, 15 Jan., Horn I., WCW (N); 1, 4 June, Ocean Springs, WCW (L); 5, 1 July, East Ship I., WCW; 1, 22 Oct., Hattiesburg, LYG (A).
- RED-THROATED LOON -- 1, 14 Jan., Horn I., WCW (R).
- HORNED GREBE -- 87, 31 Dec., Sardis L. CBC (N); 250, 15 Jan., Horn I., WCW (N).
- EARED GREBE -- 2, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, CW, JF (R); 1, 20 Dec., Gulfport harbor, WCW; 5, 29 Dec., Hattiesburg sewage ponds, LYG, JAT, JI; 1, 1 Jan., Gulfport harbor, WCW, WJW, JAT; 3, 5 Jan., L. Washington, GEÄ; 5 (breeding pl), 25 Apr., Hattiesburg sewage ponds, WCW; 1, apparently spent summer 1978 at Hattiesburg, LYG; 6, 21 Aug., Hattiesburg, LYG (A); 1, 24-25 Sept., Kosciusko, JAS.
- PIED-BILLED GREBE -- 5 (1 ad, 4 juv.), 17 June, Yazoo NWR, WCW; 7 (1 ad, 6 juv), 19 July, Nöxubee NWR, PR; 100, 24 Oct., near Jackson, FW, CB, RD (N).
- WHITE PELICAN -- 3, 1 Dec., Gulfport, JAT; 1, 20 Dec., Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 65, 10 Mar., East Ship I., WCW; 25, 9 May, Long Beach JAT; 4, 10 May, Bellefontaine Beach, JAT, AB, MH; 200, 3 Oct., Biloxi, PD, JP; 2, 21 Oct., Pascagoula, LYG, JAT; 100+, 4 Nov., Bellefontaine Beach, JAT, GM, MN.
- BROWN PELICAN -- 1, 8 Jan., Gulfport, GP; 3 ad, 17 June, West Ship I., EA; 1 imm, 28-29 July, West Ship I., EA, LC; 14, 28 Sept., Gulfport, PD, m.ob.
- GANNET -- 3 imm, 13 Jan., Horn I., WCW; 2, (1 ad, 1 imm), 14 Feb., East Ship I., WCW; 6 (1 ad, 5 imm), 27 Feb., Horn I., WCW; 1, 20 Apr., Horn I., WCW (L).

- BLUE-FACED BOOBY -- 5 ad., 27 Sept., Biloxi, JAT, GM (editor's note: this species is still only hypothetical for Mississippi in the absence of a specimen, identifiable photograph, or equally substantial evidence of its occurrence in the state).
- GREAT CORMORANT -- 1 imm., 1 Nov., Bellefontaine Point, LJJ, JT (hypothetical for Mississippi).
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- 100 (one flock), 3 Dec., Ross Barnett Res., GEA, GA (N); 13, 31 Dec., Jackson CBC; 1, 13 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 21 May, Biloxi, JAT; 1, 11 July, Ocean Springs, WCW.
- ANHINGA -- 1, 18 Mar., Hattiesburg, LJJ (A); 6, 13 May, Merrill, LJJ; 2, 1 June, Merrill, WCW.
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD -- 1, 16 Dec., Biloxi, EJT; 1 ad m, 12 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, WCW; 40, 29 June, East Ship I., WCW (N).
- GREEN HERON -- 1, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC; 1, 9 Mar., East Ship I., WCW (A); 2, 31 Mar., Starkville, WCW (A).
- LITTLE BLUE HERON -- 28 imm., 20 Jan., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT; 2, 13 Mar., Hattiesburg, LJJ (A); 65, (40 ad, 25 imm), 30 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- CATTLE EGRET -- 36, 3 Dec., Hancock Co., JAT (N); 5, 18 Dec., Noxubee NWR CBC, CDC; 1, 18 Dec., Washington Co. CBC; 1000+ prs, 11 July, Wiggins, WCW (nested in woodlot within city limits).
- REDDISH EGRET -- 1, 20 Dec., Gulfport, WCW; 1, 13-16 Feb., East Ship I., WCW; 1 imm, 26 July, Long Beach, JAT; 3, 1 July, East Ship I., WCW; 1 imm, 10 Aug., Gulfport, JAT; 1 imm, 30 Aug., Bay St. Louis, JAT; 1 (white phase), 4 Oct., Clermont Harbor, JAT; 1, 21 Oct., Pascagoula River marsh, LJJ, JAT.
- GREAT EGRET -- 10, 4 Nov., near Jackson, RD, CB.
- SNOWY EGRET -- 5, 26 Aug., Noxubee NWR, CDC, WCW.
- LOUISIANA HERON -- 1 imm, 30 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW (R inland).
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON -- 6 (2 ad, 4 imm), 5 Oct., Noxubee NWR, CDC; 1 imm, 24 Nov., Flora, WHT.
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON -- 1 imm, 20 June, Longview, JAJ; 24, 18 June, Dundee BBS route, WCW; 40 imm, 29 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT (N); 5, 2 Nov., Archer Island, Ark., NOH (D).
- LEAST BITTERN -- 3 (heard only), 17 May, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 17 June, Yazoo NWR, WCW.
- AMERICAN BITTERN -- 1, 23-28 Jan., Noxubee NWR, BJS, JAJ, CDC; 1, 13 Feb., Fontainebleau, JAT.
- WOOD STORK -- 5, 13 June, Noxubee NWR, PR (A); 75, 27 July, Noxubee NWR, PR.
- Plegadis* sp. -- 1, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, JAT; 2, 15 Jan., Clermont Harbor, JAT.
- WHITE IBIS -- 13 (12 ad, 1 imm), 17-20 Dec., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, WCW; 1 imm, 20 Jan., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT; 4 imm, 5 Mar., Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 30, 4 May, Jackson Co., JAT, LJJ; 20 (most imm), 23 July, Wade, JAT, MH; 2 imm, 26 July, Kosciusko, JAS; 1, 4 Nov., near Jackson, RD, CB (D); 18, 4 Nov., Jackson Co, JAT, GM, MN.
- WHISTLING SWAN -- 1, 3 Jan., L. Washington, GEA (R); 2, 25 Nov., Pearl R. Waterfowl Refuge, RWE, HM.
- CANADA GOOSE -- 456, 18 Dec., Washington Co., Washington Co. CBC; 3800, Sardis L., Sardis L. CBC.

- COMMON BRANT -- 1, 1 July, East Ship I., WCW.
- WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- 38, 18 Dec., Washington Co. CBC.
- SNOW GOOSE -- 45 (2 flocks, all white-phase), 4 Mar., n. Jackson Co., JAT et al.
- MALLARD -- 35,578, 18 Dec., Washington Co. CBC (N); 13,350, 31 Dec., Sardis L. CBC (N); 2 (pr), 24 Apr., Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 2 (pr), 17 May, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1 f, 11 June, Graysport Crossing, Grenada L., WCW; 1, Dundee BBS route, WCW.
- BLACK DUCK -- 65, 18 Dec., Noxubee NWR CBC; 1 m, 13 Apr., Noxubee NWR; 4-6, through May to 2 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, LJG, JAT, AB, MH, RTC, JC.
- MOTTLED DUCK -- 2, 19 Dec., Southern Hancock Co. CBC; 8, 5 Mar., Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 10 (1 f with 9 young), 22 Apr, Pascagoula R. marsh, MOS; 30, 29 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 53 (max. ads on 29 July), present throughout June and July, several broods seen (e.g., broods of 7 and 5 on 5 July, brood of 3 small young on 29 July), JAT, WCW, et al.
- GADWALL -- 4, 25 Mar., Clermont Harbor, JAT (D); 6, 29 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (D).
- PINTAIL -- 1, 6 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJG.
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL -- 1214, 18 Dec., Noxubee NWR CBC (N); 2 (pr), 5 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (D).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL -- 1, 18 Dec., Washington Co. CBC; 18 (most m), 25 Feb., Horn I., WCW; 7, 3 Mar., Hattiesburg, LJG (A); 5, 18 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 40, 23 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, WCW; 2 (m & f), 11 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAJ, BJS; up to 9 through June and July, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, MH, BB, et al.; 1 m, 17 June, Yazoo NWR, WCW.
- CINNAMON TEAL -- 2, 25 Feb.-16 Mar., Yazoo NWR, GEA, GA (R).
- AMERICAN WIGEON -- 6, 23 Mar., Clermont Harbor, JAT (D); 4, 29 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW, CDC (D).
- NORTHERN SHOVELER -- 2 (pr), 24 Apr., Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW (D); 1, 4 May, Hattiesburg sewage ponds, LJG (D).
- WOOD DUCK -- 80, 17 June, Yazoo NWR, WCW; 8, 18 June, Dundee BBS route, WCW.
- REDHEAD -- up to 500, 13-20 Jan., Horn I., WCW (N).
- RING-NECKED DUCK -- 4, 19 Mar., Clermont Harbor, JAT, AB (D); 1, 29 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW, CDC (D); 1, 26 Aug., Noxubee NWR, CDC, WCW (A).
- CANVASBACK -- 120, 3 Dec., Ross Barnett Reservoir, MOS (N); 705, 31 Dec., Sardis L. CBC (N); 1000, 3 Jan., L. Washington, GEA (N); 1 m, present through June & July, Pascagoula R. marsh, JT, MH, BB, WCW.
- GREATER SCAUP -- 1, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, LJG, SP; 1, 19 Dec., Southern Hancock Co. CBC.; 20, 11 & 16 Feb., East Ship I., WCW; 6, 28 Feb., Horn I., WCW, EA; 2 (1 m, 1 f), 16 Oct., Horn I., CDC.
- LESSER SCAUP -- 2000, 15 Jan., Horn I., WCW (N); 250, 25 Mar., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW; 4, June & July, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, WCW, et al.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE -- 4 f, 3 Dec., Ross Barnett Res., MOS (A); up to 10, 10-17 Feb., East Ship I., WCW.
- BUFFLEHEAD -- 120, 16 Jan., Horn I., WCW (N); 5, 25 Mar., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW (D); 6, 30 Mar., Gulfport, JAT (D).
- OLDSQUAW -- 1, 31 Dec., Jackson CBC (R); up to 16, Jan.-8 Mar., Horn and East Ship Islands, WCW.

- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER -- up to 13, 11-17 Feb., East Ship I., WCW; 5, 28 Feb., Horn I., WCW, EA; 7, 23 Mar., Gulfport, JAT.
- SURF SCOTER -- 1 f, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, LJG, SP; up to 40, 11-17 Feb., East Ship I., WCW; 80, 28 Feb., Horn I., WCW, EA; 1 f, Horn I., WCW.
- BLACK SCOTER -- up to 50, 11-17 Feb., East Ship I., WCW; 2 f, 28 Feb., Horn I., WCW, EA; 12, 8 Mar., East Ship I., WCW.
- RUDDY DUCK -- 4, 9 May, Hattiesburg, LJG; several present all summer, Hattiesburg sewage ponds, LJG.
- HOODED MERGANSER -- 18, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC; 253, 18 Dec., Noxubee NWR CBC (N).
- COMMON MERGANSER -- 8, 27 Dec., Moon L. CBC, BBC, LCC (R); 1 f, 4 Feb., Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- RED-BREADED MERGANSER -- 2 f, 3 Dec., Ross Barnett Res., MOS; 1 f, 28 May, West Ship I., WCW et al.; 1 ad m, 23 June, Pascagoula, JAT, MBH, DG; 1 f, 1 July, East Ship I., WCW.
- BLACK VULTURE -- 102, 18 Dec., Noxubee NWR CBC (N).
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE -- 6, 13 May, Merrill, LJG, JR (N); 2, 1 June, Wade, WCW; 5, 23 July, Wade, JAT, MH.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE -- 2 (1 ad, 1 imm), 30 May, Vancleave, WCW; 3 (1 imm), 1 June, Wade, WCW, BC, JC; 1 ad, 13 June, Kosciusko, JAS; 1 ad, 15 June, Saucier, BH, NH; 5, 17 June, Leroy Percy State Park, WCW; 2, 17 June, Yazoo NWR, WCW; 5, 18 June, Dundee BBS route, WCW; 3 (1 ad, 2 imm), 8 July, Wade, JAT; 7, 18 July, Wade, JAT, LS, JL; 3, 9 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT (D).
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK -- 1, 3 Dec., Rankin Co., MOS; 1, 16 Sept., Bellefontaine Beach, MN, JT (A); 1, 15 Oct., Kosciusko, JAS.
- COOPER'S HAWK -- 1, 4 Oct., Hancock Co., JAT (A).
- RED-SHOULDERED HAWK -- 13, 18 Dec., Noxubee NWR CBC (N).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK -- 1, 16 Apr., Gulfport, JAT (A); 250, 26 Sept., Kosciusko, JAS (N); 75-85, 28 Sept., Warren Co., GC (N).
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK -- 1, 31 Dec., Sardis L. CBC (R); 1 (light phase), 22 Apr., Wiggins, LJG (R).
- GOLDEN EAGLE -- 1 ad, 18 Dec., Noxubee NWR CBC, JAJ (R); 1, 1 Nov., Graveline Bay, LJG, JAT (R).
- BALD EAGLE -- 3 (1 ad, 2 imm), 3 Dec., Ross Barnett Res., MOS; 1 ad, 12 Dec., Noxubee NWR, JAJ; 1 ad, 18 Dec., Noxubee NWR CBC, BH, NH, MW; 4 imm, 31 Dec., Jackson CBC; 1 ad., 21 Jan., at nest near Gulfport, WCW; 1 ad, 27 Jan., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 2 ad, 4 Feb., Noxubee NWR, WCW, DS, MS; 1 imm), 19 Feb., Yazoo NWR, GEA; 1 21 Oct., Gulfport, LJG, JAT; 1 imm., 27 Oct., Noxubee NWR, JAS; 1 ad, 6 Nov., Monroe Co., RH; 1 imm, 7 Dec., Pearl R. Waterfowl Refuge, WHT.
- MARSH HAWK -- 1, 16 Sept., Bellefontaine Beach, JAT, MN, GN (A).
- OSPREY -- 4, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC; 2, 15 and 18 Jan., Horn I., WCW; 1, 5 Feb., Pass Christian, JAT; 2-3, 11-16 Feb., East Ship I., WCW; 4 pr nesting, 8 Mar., East Ship I., WCW; 1, 3 Apr., Noxubee NWR, BW (A); 2, 23 June, Round I., JAT, MBH, DG; 5 (incl. 1 on nest), 18 July, Escatawpa, JAT, LS, JL; 4, 23 July, Escatawpa, JAT, MH.
- PEREGRINE -- 1, 19 Dec., Southern Hancock Co. CBC; 1, 18 Jan., Horn I., WCW; 2, 6 Mar., East Ship I., WCW; 1, 19 Apr., Horn I., WCW; 1, 2 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, BC, JC.

- MERLIN -- 1, 19 Dec., Southern Hancock Co. CBC; 1, 20 Dec., Gulfport harbor, WCW; 1, 29 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC (R); 2, Jan.-Feb., Horn I., WCW; 1, 11-17 Feb., East Ship I., WCW; 1, 14 Feb., Washington Co., GEA; 1, 11 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, WCW; 2, 14 Oct., Horn I., CDC, JAJ, BJS.
- SANDHILL CRANE -- 39, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, JAT, EWC, et al.
- KING RAIL -- 1, 21 Oct., Biloxi, LJG.
- VIRGINIA RAIL -- 1, 9 Oct., Gulfport, CR (A); 1, 21 Oct., Biloxi, LJG, JAT.
- SORA -- 2, 21 Oct., Biloxi, JAT; LJG (A).
- COMMON GALLINULE - 10 ad (including 1 pr with 4+ very small chicks), 22 Apr., Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW et al.; 25, 17 June, Yazoo NWR, WCW; present throughout June & July, at least 2 broods of chicks seen, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, WCW, et al.
- AMERICAN COOT -- 2, 17 June, Yazoo NWR, WCW; 2, 28 May, West Ship I., AB (L); 4, present throughout June & July, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JAT, et al.; several present throughout summer, Hattiesburg sewage ponds, LJG; 12, 14 Oct., Pascagoula, JAT, MH, MN, GN (A).
- AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER -- 1, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, LJG, SP (R).
- SEMPALMATED PLOVER -- 1, 29 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW (L); 1, 2 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, BC, JC (L); 6, 1 July, East Ship I., WCW; 3, 30 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 26, 7 Aug., Waveland, JAT.
- PIPING PLOVER -- up to 28, January, Horn I., WCW; up to 30, 11-16 Feb., East Ship I., WCW; 8, 17 Apr., Horn I., WCW; 1, 8 July, Horn I., WCW; 1, 7 Aug., Bay St. Louis, JAT.
- SNOWY PLOVER -- up to 3, Jan., Horn I., WCW; up to 7, 11-16 Feb., East Ship I., WCW; 2 (pr), successfully nested in Least Tern colony, Gulfport (see article this issue), MBH; 1, 2 July, East Ship I., WCW; 2, 4 July, West Ship I., WCW; 1, 9-10 July, Horn I., WCW.
- WILSON'S PLOVER -- 4, 8 Mar., East Ship I, WCW; 8, 1 July, East Ship I., WCW; 3 (possibly 5) (adults with at least 1 juv), 11 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAJ, BJS; 7 present throughout June & July, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT et al.
- KILLDEER -- 218, 18 Dec., Noxubee NWR CBC (N).
- AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER -- 1, 8 Mar., East Ship I., WCW (A); 30, 9 Mar., East Ship I., WCW; several sightings 12-31 Mar., Gulfport & Pascagoula R. marsh (max. 30 at Gulfport, 12 Mar.), all in winter pl., JAT; 100+, 25 Mar., Yazoo, WHT (N); 35, 9 Apr., Scott Plantation, NOH.
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER -- 2, 16 Sept., Noxubee NWR, JAS, EWP.
- RUDDY TURNSTONE -- 15, 20 Dec., Gulfport harbor, WCW (N); 3, 28 May, West Ship I., WCW, JAT, et al.; 1, 29 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 1, 2 June, Biloxi, WCW; 1, 10 June, Gulfport, PR, BT, MBH; 4, 1 July, East Ship I., WCW; 2, 7 Aug., Bay St. Louis, JAT (A).
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK -- 4, 1 May, Latimer, WCW; 1, 22 Nov., Gulfport, JAT.
- COMMON SNRIPE -- 49, 18 Dec., Noxubee NWR CBC (N); 1, 18 Apr., Horn I., WCW; 1, 24 Apr., Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW (D); 4, 9 Sept., Pascagoula, JAT.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW -- 1, 16 Dec.-25 Mar., Gulfport, AB, m. ob.
- WHIMBREL -- 1, 17 Apr., Horn I., WCW; 1, 10 May, Bellefontaine Beach, JAT, AB, MH.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER -- 3, 25 Mar., Brooksville, RW (A); 1, 12 Aug., Pascagoula, WCW, JAT.

- SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- 4, 29 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC, LJG, JAT, JI; 1, 5 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 2, 12 May, MSU sewage ponds, JAJ, BJS; 1, 28 May, West Ship I., MBH; 2, 9 July, Horn I., WCW; 1, 18 July, Noxubee NWR, PR; 4, 28 July, Hattiesburg, LJG.
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER -- 1, 4 Mar., Ocean Springs, JAT et al. (E); 1, 11 Mar., Pearlinton, JAT et al; 4, 13 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 28 May, West Ship I., WCW et al. (L).
- WILLET -- several, including 1 3/4 grown downy juv., 11 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAJ, BJS.
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS -- 24, 8 Feb., Bellefontaine Point, WCW (N); 20, 8 Mar., East Ship I., WCW; 1, 22 Mar., Starkville, WCW (A); 1, 20 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ; 1, 27 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 10, 29 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT.
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS -- 26, 8 Mar., East Ship I., WCW; 10, 12 Mar., Ocean Springs, WCW; 65, 27 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW.
- RED KNOT -- 1-3, 13-16 Feb., East Ship I., WCW (R); 1, 4 May, Gulfport, LJG; 8, 28 May, West Ship I., WCW.
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER -- 2, 8 Mar., East Ship I., WCW; 25, 29 Mar., Noxubee NWR, CDC (A); 2, 28 June, East Ship I., WCW; 2, 18 July, Noxubee NWR, PR (A); 1, 20 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, MH; 50, 30 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 20, 9 Aug., Pascagoula, JAT, MBH, TH; 1, 24 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJG (D).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER -- 1, 22 Apr., Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW et al. (A); 14, 9 May, Hattiesburg, LJG; 25, 14 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, LJG; 6, 29 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 1, 1 June, Tupelo Fish Hatchery, BBC, LCC; 1, 2 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, BC, JC.
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER -- 1, 19-20 Apr., Horn I., WCW; 3, 4 May, Gulfport harbor, LJG (R); 2, 12 Aug., Pascagoula, WCW, JAT; 1, 28 Sept., Hattiesburg, LJG.
- LEAST SANDPIPER -- 17, 27 Dec., Moon Lake CBC, BBC, LCC (R); 3, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ, CDC; 1, 9 July, Horn I., WCW; 200, 23 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, MH (N); 40, 30 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 200+, 9 Aug., Pascagoula, JAT, MBH, TH.
- DUNLIN -- 23, 12 May, MSU sewage ponds, JAJ, BJS; 700 (most in breeding pl), 21 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT (N); 1, 30 Sept., Bellefontaine Beach, JAT et al.
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER -- 300, 2 June (present through most of June & July), Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, m. ob.; 1, 9 Aug., Pascagoula, JAT, MBH, TH.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER -- 30, 24 Apr., Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 8, 9 Aug., Pascagoula, JAT, TH, MBH.
- STILT SANDPIPER -- 16, 24 Apr., Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 50, 14 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, LJG (N); 2 (breeding pl), 29 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 9, (breeding pl), 5 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, WCW; 5, 30 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 9 Aug., Pascagoula, JAT, TH; 12, 13 Sept., Noxubee NWR, JAS; 1, 24 Oct., near Jackson, WHT, JP.
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER -- 700, 29 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW (N); 4, 1 June, Tupelo Fish Hatchery, BBC, LCC; 1000, 2 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, BC, JC; 2, 20 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, MH; 200, 26 July, Waveland, JAT (N); 150, 30 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 300, 17 Aug., Pascagoula, JAT, WCW (N).

- WESTERN SANDPIPER -- 12, 27 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 400, 23 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, MH (N); 450, 26 July, Waveland, JAT (N); 5, 30 July, Noxubee NWR, WCW; 100+, 19 Aug., Pascagoula, JAT.
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER -- 1, 22 Apr., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAJ, CDC, BJS, m. ob.; 2, 4 May, Gulfport, LJG; 1, 14 Aug., Pascagoula, JAT, LJG, WCW.
- MARbled GODWIT -- 1, 10 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, AB, MH.
- HUDSONIAN GODWIT -- 2, 13-16 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, PD, JP, LJG, JAT, MH, BB, m. ob. (first Mississippi record, see article this issue).
- AMERICAN AVOCET -- 2, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, LJG, SP; 26, 20 Jan., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT; present all spring (max. 5T, 22 Apr.), all in breeding pl by late Mar., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT et al.; 10, 16 Apr., Bay St. Louis, JAT; 8, 23 Apr., Hattiesburg, LJG; 1, 20 & 29 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, MH; 3, 9 Aug., Pascagoula, JAT, MBH, TH; 1, 16-19 Sept., Hattiesburg, LJG.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT -- 17 Dec., Pascagoula R. marsh, LJG, SP; 1, 13 Mar., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT (E); present all spring (max. 3T on 31 Mar.), Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT et al.; 1, 11 Apr., Kosciusko, JAS; 1, 4 May, West Ship I., LC; 12, 11 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAJ, BJS; 30 ad, 26 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW, JAT; 3 juv seen with adults, 5 July, and up to 15 juv as well as adults seen 29 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT et al.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE -- 5, 4 May, Gulfport harbor, LJG (R); 16 (at least 8 f in breeding pl), 4 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, LJG, JAT (N); 2 (1 m, 1 f), Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, AB, MH; 1 (winter pl), 11 May, MSU sewage ponds, CDC, BJS; 1 f (breeding pl), 27 June, Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW; 4 (incl. 2 f in breeding pl), 18 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT; 3, 14 Aug., Pascagoula, JAT, WCW, LJG; 2, 25 Aug., Pascagoula, LJG; 1, 9-16 Sept., Hattiesburg, LJG.
- HERRING GULL -- 2 juv, 8 July, spoil bank W of Petit Bois I., WCW; 3, 3 Aug., Bellefontaine Beach, JAT.
- RING-BILLED GULL -- 800, 3 Dec., Ross Barnett Res., MOS (N); 100+, 7 Mar., Ross Barnett Res., WHT; 1, 28 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (R); 1 ad, 23 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, MH; 1, 30 Aug., Bay St. Louis, JAT.
- LAUGHING GULL -- 600 (500 ad, 100 juv), 23 June, spoil bank off Pascagoula, JAT, MBH, DG.
- BONAPARTE'S GULL -- 200, 3 Dec., Ross Barnett Res., MOS (N); up to 160, Jan.-Feb., Horn I., WCW (N); 250, 5 Mar., Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW (N); 9 (winter pl), 29 Mar., Noxubee NWR, CDC (R); 1, 25 Apr., Hattiesburg, WCW (L); 1, 4 and 10 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, LJG (L).
- LITTLE GULL -- 1 imm, 5 Feb., Sardis L., MD (3rd state record, all at this locality).
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE -- 1 imm, 19 Dec., Bay St. Louis, SP, LJG.
- GULL-BILLED TERN -- 1, 19 Dec., N of Bay St. Louis, LJG, SP; 4, 10 Apr., Clermont Harbor ponds, JAT; 34 (17 ad, 17 juv), 23 July, Pascagoula R. marsh (present throughout June & July, distraction displays seen); 2 (an adult feeding a juv), 25 Aug., Pascagoula, LJG; 2, 27 Sept., Bellefontaine Beach, JAT (D).
- COMMON TERN -- 50 (2 in near-breeding pl), 1 July, East Ship I., WCW (N).

- SOOTY TERN -- 1-3, 14-15 Oct., Horn I., JAJ, CDC, BJS (R, see article and photograph this issue).
- LEAST TERN -- several, 6 Apr., Gulfport, JAT (E); first eggs, 28 Apr., Long Beach, JAT; 2200 pr nesting at Gulfport, 2000 pr at Long Beach, nesting success very good at Gulfport, but only moderate at Long Beach-Pass Christian because of disturbance - also about 10 smaller groups of 15-30 pr nesting at various places from Bay St. Louis to Biloxi, MBH, JAT, JAJ; 24, 25 Sept., Gulfport, JAT (D).
- ROYAL TERN -- none nested this year on the spoil bank W of Petit Bois I. - 50, including flying juv, seen on 8 July, JAT, WCW, et al.
- SANDWICH TERN -- none nested this year on the spoil bank W of Petit Bois I. - 400, including flying juv, seen on 8 July, JAT, WCW, et al.; 1, 30 Sept., Bellefontaine Beach, JAT, WCW, LJG.
- CASPIAN TERN -- 1, 13 Sept., Noxubee NWR, JAS, EWP (A).
- BLACK TERN -- 6, 4 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, LJG (A); 9, 10 May, same place, JAT, AB, MH; 150, 28 June-2 July, East Ship I., WCW; 60, 8 July, Horn I., WCW.
- BLACK SKIMMER -- 1200, 3 Dec., Gulfport harbor, JAT (N); 1250, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC (N); no birds seen on 8 July on spoil bank W of Petit Bois I, nesting colony on Horn I also reported abandoned, few juv seen in late summer, WCW.
- GROUND DOVE -- 1, 4 May, Pascagoula R. flats, LJG, JAT.
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO -- 1, 16 Apr., Buccaneer State Park, JAT (A); 1, 28 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 1, 29 Apr., Vicksburg, HM (A); these cuckoos seemed to be particularly abundant throughout the state this summer, JAJ, et al.; 1, 26 Oct., Kosciusko, JAS (D); 2, 12 Nov., Hattiesburg, MOS (D).
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO -- 1, 6 May, Bovina, WHT; 1, 10 May, Bellefontaine Beach, JAT, AB, MH.
- GROOVE-BILLED ANI -- 4, 19-21 Oct., Biloxi, PD, m. ob.
- BARN OWL -- 2, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC; 1, 27 Feb., Horn I., WCW.
- GREAT HORNED OWL -- 2 (pr copulating), 22 Jan., Ocean Springs, WCW.
- BURROWING OWL -- 1, 15 Oct., Horn I., CDC, JAJ, BJS (R); 1, 31 Oct., Gulfport (found in schoolyard, released at Bellefontaine Beach), JAT.
- WHIP-POOR-WILL -- 1, 1 Nov., Bellefontaine Point, JAT.
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW -- 1, 17 Jan., Horn I., WCW (C); 1, 15 Apr., Vicksburg, HM.
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK -- 1, 29 Mar., Starkville, CDC (E); 8, 11 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, WCW (A).
- CHIMNEY SWIFT -- 1, 18 Mar., Vicksburg, HM; 1, 27 Mar., Gulfport, AB (A); 4, 31 Mar., Starkville, WCW (A); 1, 5 Apr., Archer I., Ark, NOH; Hundreds, 19 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ, CDC.
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD -- 1, 23 Mar., Gulfport, JAT (A); 1, 31 Mar., Vicksburg, HM; 1, 5 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 1 f seen on nest, 18 July, Wade, JAT (nest 18 ft. up in live oak, first evidence of nesting in coastal Miss.).
- BELTED KINGFISHER -- 2 active nests found in sawdust piles, 20-22 May, Noxubee NWR, WCW, PR.
- PILEATED WOODPECKER -- 23, 18 Dec., Washington Co. CBC (N); 9, 1 June, Benndale BBS route, WCW; 1 (heard), 9-10 July, Horn I. WCW.

- RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER -- 25, 11 June, Walthall BBS route, WCW.
 YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER -- 1, 20 Apr., Horn I., WCW (D).
 RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER -- 18, 18 Dec., Noxubee NWR CBC (N), 1, 31 May,
 near Center Hill, no apparent nest tree near, BBC, LCC.
 EASTERN KINGBIRD -- 3, 18 Mar., Bellefontaine Beach, JAT (E), 1, 30 Mar.,
 Longview, WCW (A), 1, 21 Oct., Pascagoula, LJG, JAT (D).
 GRAY KINGBIRD -- 1, 17 Apr. Horn I., WCW (A), 2 prs., 8-11 July, one
 bird incubating on nest in same location as 1976, Horn I., WCW.
 WESTERN KINGBIRD -- 1, 21 Oct., Bellefontaine Beach, LJG, JAT (R).
 SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER -- 1, 23 Apr., Guntown, RH, 1, 21 Oct.
 Bellefontaine Beach, LJG, JAT; 1, 21 Oct., Biloxi, PD, JP, SPE.
 GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER -- 1, 31 Mar., Bellefontaine Beach, JAT (A),
1, 12 Apr., Jackson, WHT (A), 1, 20 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ (A).
 EASTERN PHOEBE -- 1, 31 May, nest under bridge, Center Hill, BBC, LCC.
 ACADIAN FLYCATCHER -- 1, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, CDC, JAJ (A), 1, 30 Apr.,
 Vicksburg, HM (A).
 WILLOW FLYCATCHER -- 2 m singing, 16 May, and 1, 17 May, Starkville, WCW.
 EASTERN WOOD PEWEE -- 1, 31 Mar., Bellefontaine Beach, JAT (E), 15, 4 May,
 Bellefontaine Beach, JAT, LJG (N).
 OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER -- 1, 31 Aug., Jackson Co., JAT (R), 1, 7 Oct.,
 Bellefontaine Beach, LJG (R), 1, 21 Oct., Bellefontaine Beach,
 LJG, JAT (R).
 HORNE LARK -- 4, 28 Jan., MSU South Farm, CDC, JAJ, m. ob. (R in area)
 TREE SWALLOW -- 20, 18 Dec., Washington CBC, (R - winter), 5000+, 19 Feb.,
 Bay St. Louis, JAJ (N), 2, 25 Feb., Yazoo NWR, GEA, GA, 16, 13 Mar.,
 Hattiesburg, LJG (A), 10, 18 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A), no. ?,
4 May, Bellefontaine Beach, JAT, LJG (D).
 BANK SWALLOW -- 20, 31 Mar., Bellefontaine Beach, JAT (A), 2, 29 May,
 Pascagoula R. marsh, WCW (L).
 ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- 20, 31 Mar., Bellefontaine Beach, JAT (A), 1,
5 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A), 1 nest, 3 June, Attala Co., JAS, EWP,
2, 24 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJG (D).
 BARN SWALLOW -- 2, 17 Mar., Brookhaven, JAJ (A), 1, 18 Mar., Pascagoula
 R. marsh, JAT et al. (A), 1, 18 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A).
 CLIFF SWALLOW -- 1, 4 May, Hattiesburg, LJG, 2 nesting prs., 11 June,
 Graysport Bridge, Grenada L., WCW, 22 active nests, 19 June, Yellow Cr.
 Bridge, Iuka, WCW.
 PURPLE MARTIN-- several, 1 Feb., Horn I., JN (A), 15, 4 Feb., West Ship I.,
 DS*(A), numerous birds found dead apparently due to starvation during
 cold weather Nat. Park Service staff, 1, 12 Feb. Hattiesburg, RM (A),
3, 26 Feb., Jackson, WHT (A), 1, 10 Mar., Vicksburg, HM (A), 10+,
12 Mar., Noxubee NWR, JAJ, 120, 8 July, Horn I., WCW, 2000, 20 July,
 Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, MH (N).
 FISH CROW -- 2, 3 Dec., Barnett Res. MOS (R in winter), 3, 31 Dec.
 Jackson CBC, 1, 1 Mar., Hattiesburg, LJG, (A), 1, 19 Mar., Noxubee NWR,
 JAJ, 1, 19 Mar., Vicksburg, HM, 1, 7-8 Apr., Noxubee NWR, PR.
 RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 37, 17 Dec., Grenada CBC (N), 2, 9 Apr., Jackson,
 WHT (D), 2, 16 Sep. Noxubee NWR, JAS, EWP (A), 3, 7 Oct., Bellefontaine
 Beach, LJG (A).

- HOUSE WREN -- 1, 29 Mar., Starkville, CDC (A).
 BEWICK'S WREN -- 1, 17 Dec., Grenada CBC, 1, 14 Feb. to 9 Mar., East Ship I., WCW, 1 m, singing, 5-27 May, Biloxi, PB, 7 at 4 stops, 17 June, Cockrun BBS route, ER, RJ (R).
 SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN -- 2, 29 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC, 1, 4 May, Hattiesburg, LJJ (D).
 GRAY CATBIRD -- 1, 20 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ (A).
 WOOD THRUSH -- 1, 6 Apr., Jackson, WHT (A), 1, 6 Apr., Hattiesburg, JAT, LJJ (A), 3, 9 Apr., Gulfport, JAT, AB (A), 1, 20 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ (A).
 SWAINSON'S THRUSH -- 1, 18 Feb., Buccaneer State Park, JAT et al. (R), 2, 19 Apr., Horn I., WCW (A), 1, 28 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A), 7, 4 May, Bellefontaine Beach, JAT, LJJ.
 VEERY -- 1, 19 Apr., Horn I., WCW (A).
 BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 1, 18 Dec., Washington Co. CBC, 5, 29 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A).
 RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- 1, 20 Apr., Horn I., WCW (D), 3, 6 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJJ (A).
 WATER PIPIT -- 4, 30 Sep., Gulfport, PD (A), 1, 6 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJJ (A).
 SPRAGUE'S PIPIT -- 1, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, (R).
 CEDAR WAXWING -- 800, 29 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC (N), 12, 4 May, Hattiesburg, LJJ (D), 12, 19 May, Starkville, WCW (D).
 BLACK-CAPPED VIREO -- 2 (1 m, 1 f), 4 May, Bellefontaine Beach, LJJ, JAT (first record for Mississippi).
 WHITE-EYED VIREO -- 1, 5 Mar., near Latimer, WCW (A), 2, 24 Mar., Hillside Ref., WHT (A), 12, 5 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A).
 YELLOW-THROATED VIREO -- 1, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, 1, 18 Mar., Hattiesburg, LJJ (E), 1, 19 Mar., Noxubee NWR, JAJ (E), 1, 23 Mar., Buccaneer State Park, JAT (A), 2, 29 Mar., Noxubee NWR, CDC (A).
 SOLITARY VIREO -- 1, 3 Dec., Barnett Res., GEA, GA, 1, 17 Dec., Grenada CBC, 1, 18 Dec., Washington Co. CBC, 1, 18 Dec., Noxubee NWR CBC, 1, 22 Jan., Noxubee NWR, CDC, BJS, 1, 27 Jan., Noxubee NWR, WCW, 1, 10 Mar., Vicksburg, HM (A), 1, 16 Apr., Buccaneer State Park, JAT (D).
 RED-EYED VIREO -- 1, 31 Mar., Ocean Springs, MH (A), 1, 20 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ, 1, 4 Nov., Bellefontaine Beach, JAT, MN (D).
 PHILADELPHIA VIREO -- 1, 20 Apr., Gulfport, JAT (A).
 WARBLING VIREO -- 6, 20 Apr., Gulfport, JAT (N).
 BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER -- 1, 18 Dec., Washington Co. CBC, 2, 8 Mar., East Ship I., WCW (A), 3, 29 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A).
 PROTHONOTARY WARBLER -- 1, 12 Mar., Buccaneer State Park, JAT (A).
 SWAINSON'S WARBLER -- 1, 23 Apr., Hattiesburg, LJJ, 1, 21 May, Noxubee NWR, WCW.
 WORM-EATING WARBLER -- 1, 27 Mar., Gulfport, JAT (A).
 GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER -- 1, 4 May, Hattiesburg, LJJ (A), 2, 2 Oct., Kosciusko, JAS (A).
 BLUE-WINGED WARBLER -- 1, 5 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A), 1, 9 Apr., Gulfport, JAT (A).

- TENNESSEE WARBLER -- 1, 27 Mar., Gulfport, JAT (E); 25, 28 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1, 30 Apr., Vicksburg, HM.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 1, 3 Dec., Ross Barnett Res., GEA, GA; 2, 18 Dec., Washington Co. CBC; 2, 31 Dec., Jackson CBC; 1, 6 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJJ (A).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER -- 1, 6-14 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJJ.
- NORTHERN PARULA -- 1 m, 2 Mar., Horn I., WCW; 1, 14 Mar., Hillside Refuge, WHT (A); 10, 18 Mar., Hattiesburg, LJJ, (A); 1, 19 Mar., Noxubee NWR, PR.
- YELLOW WARBLER -- 2, 11 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, WCW (A); 4, 9 May, Hattiesburg, LJJ; 1, 4 June, Ocean Springs, WCW (D); 1, 29 July, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT (E); 1-4, 5-7 June, Penton, DK.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER -- 6, 4 May, Hattiesburg, LJJ; 1, 5 May, Vicksburg, HM; 1, 17 May, Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- CAPE MAY WARBLER -- 1, 27 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JAT.
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER -- 1, 6 May, West Ship I., KL; 1 f, 4 Oct., Gulfport, JAT; 1, 6 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJJ.
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER -- 1, 23 Apr., Gulfport, JAJ; 50, 23 Apr., Ocean Springs, WCW; 1, 27 Apr., Starkville, CDC; 1, 27 Apr., Gulfport, JAT; 1, 4 May, Hattiesburg, LJJ (D).
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (AUDUBON'S) -- 2, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, JAT; 1, 29 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC, LJJ (R).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER -- 1, 29 Mar., Noxubee NWR, CDC (A); 1, 28 Oct., near Jackson, FW, RD, ET, CB (D).
- CERULEAN WARBLER -- 1, 11 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, WCW (A).
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER -- 2, 4 May, Bellefontaine Beach, JAT; 1, 14 May, Bellefontaine Beach, JAT, LJJ; 1, 6 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJJ.
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER -- 2, 8 Mar., East Ship I., WCW (A); 1 m, 18 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A).
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER -- 1 m, 23 Apr., Ocean Springs, WCW (A); 5, 4 May, Hattiesburg, LJJ; 10, 4 May, Bellefontaine Beach, LJJ, JAT (N); 1, 17 May, Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER -- 15, 20 Apr., Horn I., WCW (A); 3, 21 Apr., Gulfport, JAT (A); 25, 4 May, Bellefontaine Beach, LJJ, JAT (N); 10, 4 May, Hattiesburg, LJJ; 3, 9 May, Hattiesburg, LJJ; 1, 10 May, Vicksburg, HM; 1, 18 Sept., Gulfport, JAT (A).
- BLACKPOLL WARBLER -- 1, 19 Apr., Horn I., WCW (A).
- PALM WARBLER -- 1, 21 Apr., Horn I., WCW; 1, 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ, CDC.
- OVENBIRD -- 1, 20 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ; 1, 14 May, Vicksburg, HM; 1, 1 June, E of Schippel's Mill, Kemper Co., LCC, BBC, (noted on Scooba BBS route and also noted from same stop on 12 June 1974, 2 June 1975, and 27 May 1976); 1, 21 June, Tupelo BBS route, CDC.
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH -- 1, 27 Apr., Starkville, WCW (A).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH -- 2, 8 Mar., East Ship I., WCW (E); 1, 29 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 1, 1 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; 1, 29 June, East Ship I., WCW (R - summer).
- KENTUCKY WARBLER -- 1, 6 Apr., Hattiesburg, LJJ, JAT (A); 1, 13 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A).
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER -- 1 singing, 3 May, Noxubee NWR, CDC; 1, 10 May, Bellefontaine Beach, MH; 1, 6 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJJ (R).

- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT -- 41, 20 June, Aberdeen BBS route, CDC (N).
 YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT -- 1, 20 Apr., Horn I., WCW (A); 1, 26 Apr., Vicksburg, HM.
- HOODED WARBLER -- 1, 1 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; 1, 5 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 8, 12 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, WCW; 13, 1 June, Benndale BBS route, WCW (N).
- WILSON'S WARBLER -- 1 f, 20 Apr., Gulfport, JAT (E); 1 f, 5 May, Gulfport, JAT.
 CANADA WARBLER -- 3, 17 May, Noxubee NWR, WCW.
- AMERICAN REDSTART -- 1 m, 11 Apr., Gulfport, FM (A); 1, 13 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (A); 1, 14 May, Vicksburg, HM; 1 m, singing, 30 May, Vancleave, WCW.
- BOBOLINK -- 20, 27 Apr., Starkville, CDC, JAJ; 110, 3 May, Raymond, WHT.
 YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD -- 1 m, 8 Aug., Archer I., Ark., NOH (R).
- ORCHARD ORIOLE -- 1 m, 1 Apr., Gulfport, JAT (A); 1, 4 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; 4, 13 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 16 (7 ad m, 1 imm m, 8 f), 21 June, Bellefontaine Beach, JAT, MH (N).
- NORTHERN ORIOLE -- 1, 17 Dec., Natchez CBC; 1 m, 21 Mar., Gulfport, FM (E).
 RUSTY BLACKBIRD -- 3, 21 Oct., Bellefontaine Point, LJJ, JAT (A).
- SCARLET TANAGER -- 1 m, 11 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, WCW (A); 8 (5 m, 3 f), 27 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JAT; 1, 30 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; 1 m, singing, 1 June, W of Scooba, LCC, BBC; 2 singing m, 19 June, Tishomingo State Park, WCW.
- SUMMER TANAGER -- 1 m, 9 Apr., Gulfport, JAT (A); 1, 20 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ.
 ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK -- 1 m, 10 Jan., Ocean Springs (at feeder), AD; 2 m, 12 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, WCW (A); 1, 29 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; 1 m, 21 Sept., Starkville, BW (A).
- BLUE GROSBEAK -- 1, Ocean Springs, and 1, Bellefontaine Beach, 12 Apr., WCW (A); 1, 29 Apr., Vicksburg, HM.
- INDIGO BUNTING -- 2, 29 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC, MaN, RB, PK (C in winter); 1 m, molting, 25 Mar., Gulfport, JAT (A); 62, 20 June, Aberdeen BBS route, CDC (N); 1, 4 Nov., Gulfport, JAT (D).
- PAINTED BUNTING -- 3 m, 12 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JAT, WCW (A); 2, 23 Apr., Brownsville, WHT (A); 1 m, 10-14 May, Bellefontaine Beach; 1 imm m, 18-23 May, Starkville, WCW.
- DICKCISSEL -- 43, 20 June, Aberdeen BBS route, CDC (N).
 EVENING GROSBEAK -- 4, 2 Dec., Starkville, WCW (A); 4, 18 Dec., Noxubee NWR CBC; up to 8, about 20 Jan to 6 Feb., Ocean Springs, JB, MaH; 10, 27 Jan., Hattiesburg, HB (A); 200+, late Feb., Hattiesburg, LJJ (N); 100+, 16 Mar., MSU campus, JAJ; many, 26-27 Mar., Natchez, FF; 10, 6 Apr., Osyka, WHT; several, 25 Apr., Louisville, RW (D); 1, 30 Apr., near Latimer, WCW (D); number ?, 4 May, Hattiesburg, LJJ (L).
- PURPLE FINCH -- several, 30 Mar., Gulfport, JAT (D); 1, 1 Apr., Starkville, WCW (D).
- PINE SISKIN -- very common all winter, Hattiesburg, LJJ; 15, 20 Dec., Gulfport harbor, WCW; up to 50, 11-16 Feb., East Ship I., WCW; 6, 28 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (D); 15, 1 May, Hattiesburg, LJJ (D); 3, 8 May, Gulfport, JAT (L).
- AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -- 3, 16 Apr., Gulfport, JAT (D).

- SAVANNAH SPARROW -- 24 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ, CDC (D); 1, 3 May, Bolton, WHT (D); 1, 4 May, Bellefontaine Beach, LJG (D); 1, 14 May, Brownsville, WHT (D).
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW -- 1 m singing, 4 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, LJG, JAT.
- LE CONTE'S SPARROW -- 3, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC; 5, 17 Dec., Grenada CBC; 2, 31 Dec., Sardis L. CBC; 1, 14 Oct., Bellefontaine Beach, MH, MN (A).
- SEASIDE SPARROW -- 3, 19 Apr., Ship I., JAS.
- VESPER SPARROW -- 1, 18 Dec., Washington Co. CBC; 1, 18 Dec., Noxubee NWR CBC; 6, 27 Dec., Moon Lake CBC; 1, 27 Oct., Noxubee NWR, JAS.
- LARK SPARROW -- 1, 20 June, Aberdeen BBS route, CDC; 1, 1 Oct., Pascagoula, WHT, ACT; 1 imm, 23 Sept., Clermont Harbor, MN, JAT; 1, 8-21 Oct., Bellefontaine Beach, JAT, LJG.
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW -- 14, 19 Dec., Southern Hancock Co. CBC, JAT et al. (N); 1, 21 June, Tupelo BBS route, CDC (R in north Mississippi).
- DARK-EYED JUNCO -- 509, 31 Dec., Sardis L. CBC (N); 1, 6 Apr., Starkville, WCW (D).
- TREE SPARROW -- 1, 22 Jan., Leroy Percy State Park, GA (R).
- CHIPPING SPARROW -- 455, 29 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC (N).
- FIELD SPARROW -- 25, 20 June, Aberdeen BBS route, CDC (N).
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW -- 12, 23 Apr., Brownsville, Hinds Co., WHT (D).
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- 1, 4 May, Hattiesburg, LJG (D); 1, 11 May, Starkville, EWP (D); 1, 10 Oct., Starkville, NH (A).
- FOX SPARROW -- 8, 20 Jan., Ocean Springs, WCW.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW -- 1, 17 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC; 1, late December-13 Apr., (at feeder), Kosciusko, JAS; 1, 6 May, Bovina, WHT.
- SWAMP SPARROW -- 1, 20 Apr., Noxubee NWR, JAJ; 1, 22 Apr., Buccaneer State Park, JAT et al. (D); 1, 6 Oct., Hattiesburg, LJG (A).

Key to observers.--AB=Anna Bullard, ACT=Annie Cook Turcotte, AD=Annette Duchein, BB=Bob Best, BBC=Ben B. Coffey, BC=Bob Chapel, BH=Bill Hughes, BT=Bonnie Turner, BW=Burton Webster, CB=Christine Berry, CDC=C. Dwight Cooley, CR=Charles Rollins, CW=Cile Waite, CyR=Cy Rhode, DG=Dan Guravich, DK=Douglas Kibbe, DS=Dana Swan, DS*=Dave Spirtes, EA=Eve Angeloff, EJT=E. J. Toups, ER=Ernest Restivo, ET=Evelyn Tackett, EWC=E. W. Cake, EWP=E. W. Permenter, FF=Frances Fortenberry, FM=Fran McHugh, FW=Frances Wills, GA=Ginger Alexander, GC=George Chandler, GEA=G. Edward Alexander, GM=Gerry Morgan, GN=Georganne Neubauer, GP=George Powers, HB=Helen Byrd, HM=Hal Moore, JAJ=Jerome A. Jackson, JAS=James A. Sanders, JAT=Judith A. Toups, JB=Judy Ball, JC=Jim Chapel, JF=Jean Freeman, JI=John Izral, JL=Jenny Lockhard, JN=Joe Neal, JP=Jim Perkins, JPh=John Phares, JR=Joe Runzo, KL=Kristie Link, LC=Leslie Cupp, LCC=Lula C. Coffey, LJG=Larry J. Gates, LS=Liz Smith, MaN=Margret Nichols, MBH=Martha B. Hays, MD=Marvin Davis, MH=Mal Hodges, MN=Mike Neubauer, MOS=Mississippi Ornithological Society, MS=Martha Swan, MW=Martha Waldron, NH=Nellie Hughes, NOH=Nona Herbert, OP=Orrin Pilkey, PB=Pat Bridges, PD=Peter Donaldson, PK=Penny Kochtitsky, PR=Patricia Ramey, RB=Ruth Broome, RD=Ruth Downey, RH=Robbie Howell, RJ=Russell Jones, RM=Richard Moore, RTC=BC=Robert T. Chapel, RW=Ray Weeks, RWe=Richard Wells, SP=Steve Peterson, SPe=Sandy Perkins, TH=Thomas Howell, WCW=Wayne C. Weber, WG=Warren Garrott, WHT=W. H. Turcotte, WHV=Wayne H. Valentine, WJW=Wendy J. Weber.

Key to localities.--Aberdeen=Monroe Co.; Ackerman=Choctaw Co.; Archer I.= Chicot Co., Ark.; Bay St. Louis=Hancock Co.; Bellefontaine Beach=Jackson Co.; Benndale=George Co.; Biloxi=Harrison Co.; Brookhaven= Lincoln Co.; Brooksville=Noxubee Co.; Bolton=Hinds Co.; Bovina=Warren Co.; Buccaneer State Park=Hancock Co.; Center Hill=n. Lauderdale Co.; Clermont Harbor=Hancock Co.; Cockrum=Desoto Co.; Dundee=Tunica Co.; East Ship I.= Harrison Co.; Escatawpa=Jackson Co.; Flora=Madison Co.; Fontainebleau=Jackson Co.; Graveline Bay=s. Jackson Co.; Graysport Crossing=Grenada Co.; Gulfport=Harrison Co.; Guntown=Lee Co.; Hattiesburg=Forrest Co.; Hillside Ref.=Holmes Co.; Horn I.=Jackson Co.; Jackson=Hinds Co.; Kosciusko=Attala Co.; L.Washington=Washington Co.; Latimer=w. Jackson Co.; Leroy Percy State Park=Washington Co.; Long Beach=Harrison Co.; Longview=Oktibbeha Co.; Merrill=George Co.; Mississippi State University (MSU)=Oktibbeha Co.; Moon L.=Coahoma Co.; Noxubee NWR=Noxubee, Oktibbeha, & Winston cos.; Ocean Springs=Jackson Co.; Pascagoula=Jackson Co.; Pascagoula R. marsh=Jackson Co.; Pass Christian=Harrison Co.; Pearl R. Waterfowl Ref.=Madison & Rankin cos.; Penton=Desoto Co.; Petit Bois I.=Jackson Co.; Ross Barnett Res.=Hinds, Madison, & Rankin cos.; Round I.=Jackson Co.; Sardis L.=Lafayette & Panola cos.; Saucier=Harrison Co.; Schippel's Mill=Kemper Co.; Scooba=Kemper Co.; Scott Plantation=Bolivar Co.; Starkville=Oktibbeha Co.; Tupelo=Lee Co.; Tupelo Fish Hatchery=Lee Co.; Vancleave=Jackson Co.; Vicksburg=Warren Co.; Wade=Jackson Co.; Walthall=Webster Co.; Waveland=Hancock Co.; West Ship I.=Harrison Co.; Wiggins=Stone Co.; Yazoo NWR=Washington Co.; Yellow Creek=Tishomingo Co.

Instructions for contributors.==In spite of the longer time period included in the above records, it is obvious that Mississippi is experiencing a very gratifying increase in the number of observers sending in bird reports and in the number of observations being submitted. This growth, however, is not without some growing pains. Records have been submitted in varying fashions, to various individuals, and with varying amounts of documentation for unusual records. Beginning immediately we would appreciate it if you could prepare your records in a uniform manner and submit them by specified dates so that they might also be sent in for possible inclusion in American Birds. Our deadlines will be correlated with those set by American Birds. Inclusive observations periods and deadline for submission of records will be as follows:

<u>Observation Period</u>	<u>Deadline for Records</u>
Winter: 1 Dec. - 28 Feb.	15 March
Spring: 1 Mar. - 31 May	15 June
Summer: 1 June - 31 July	15 August
Fall: 1 Aug. - 30 Nov.	15 Dec.

All records should be mailed directly to: Jerome A. Jackson, Department of Biological Sciences, Box Z, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762. Do not send records to any other individual or address. Some records and manuscripts have taken several weeks to several months to reach the editor after having been sent to the wrong individual.

By far the best method for submitting records is to include each record on a 3" X 5" card or slip of paper. Such cards or papers are easily filed and collated in systematic and chronological order - and they are in the required form for submission of records to American Birds. In other words, if you do not submit records in this form, we have to copy them over. The illustration below shows what a properly prepared record looks like:

species: Cinnamon Teal
 date: 25 Feb. - 16 Mar. 1978
 locality: Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge, Washington
 County, Mississippi
 numbers: 2 observers: G.E. Alexander, Ginger Alexander
 details and significance: rare in Mississippi,
 bird was in a pond near refuge headquarters
 and was photographed (photos enclosed)

In whatever form records are submitted, the above information must be provided. In giving dates, do not write "4/5" for "4 May" or "5 April." Spell out or abbreviate the month to prevent errors. In giving locality, always be as specific as possible, but always include county and place names that can be found on any highway map. County names are particularly important. We have spent hours trying to find some localities used on records. Where possible include numbers of individuals, sex, plumage, age, or other details. Observer's names should be spelled out the way they should appear in print - do not list "Bob" if he would prefer to be "Robert."

Finally, don't be discouraged by the formality and scheduling we've presented above. We still want your records in any form and at any time. The use of the above format will give us more time to spend birding. Getting your records in on schedule will assure that the important ones are sent on to American Birds and are included in the Mississippi Kite. Even late, however, the records are placed in our permanent file for the use of future researchers.

Minutes of the Mississippi Ornithological Society
Spring Meeting, April 21 and 22, 1978

The annual spring meeting of the Mississippi Ornithological Society was held at the Gulfport-Harrison County Library on Friday, April 21, 1978. A buffet and social hour preceded the business meeting. Members of the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society acted as hosts.

President Steve Peterson called the business meeting to order at 7:45 P.M. The secretary's report was waived. The treasurer's report was read by Marita Smith, Treasurer, who reported a balance in the checking account of \$362.81 and a balance in savings of \$2230.17. Total assets as of April 21, 1978, were \$2592.98.

Several new orders of business were discussed and acted upon. First among them was a proposal that officers be elected to two-year terms, allowing time for more productivity during a term in office. It was motioned, seconded and affirmatively voted upon that, commencing in April 1978, officers of the MOS shall serve a two-year term, one year of which has already transpired.

A proposal to raise dues was the second order of business. Steve Peterson reviewed the financial position of the society and it was agreed during discussion that the amount in the checking account is insufficient to meet the society's goals. The single largest expenditure is the publication and mailing of the society's journal, The Mississippi Kite. Newsletters and the lease on the Cliftonville Heronry are other major disbursements. Dr. Jackson remarked that input for the Kite has been excellent enough to warrant at least two issues of the journal each year. There was some discussion on increasing issues of the newsletter, which are less costly to produce. It was generally agreed that the newsletter could be used to keep members informed of activities throughout the region, by Audubon, Sierra, and other bird and conservation groups. The prevailing opinion that the Mississippi Kite is an effective journal, one which we should like to see more often resulted in an affirmative vote for a raise in dues for regular membership category only.

New dues will be \$5.00 per year, commencing at renewal time, January 1979. Other classes of membership are to remain at their present levels.

A related discussion resulted in a suggestion that life members, and other classes of membership as well, be encouraged to make donations apart from their membership fees.

The subject of interest on life memberships, which are deposited into the savings account appeared to offer a solution to the present financial depression. It was voted to allow Treasurer, Marita Smith, to withdraw the accrued interest in savings for transfer to the checking account, as needed.

The lease on the Cliftonville Heronry was renewed for the year.

President Steve Peterson then presented Dr. Jerome Jackson with the society's annual Tucker Award. Steve noted the excellence of the Mississippi Kite which Dr. Jackson edits, and cited his continuing contribution to national publications through numerous scientific articles, which serve to augment our knowledge of the status of Mississippi bird life.

The program consisted of a variety of updates on various projects which are being done by various members of MOS. Mal Hodges of Ocean Springs explained his current study on the Eastern Bluebird. Mal and Bob Best found an area north of Ocean Springs where many bluebirds were present. They constructed twelve bluebird houses, erected them throughout the area, and as of April 21 had two bluebird pairs in residence. Mal will report his findings in a later issue of the Kite.

Dr. Jackson narrated a slide program on current work which he and his students are undertaking ... among them ... studies in the life history of the Pileated Woodpecker, studies of nesting success of an albinistic Red-headed Woodpecker mated to a normal male, an investigation of Prairie Chickens in nuptial display. He ended with slides made during a pelagic trip off the California coast.

Judith Toups brought membership up to date on the present status of the Least Tern colonies on the coast. Due to a change in county officials, terns arriving in early April (the 6th) met with disruptions in both colonies as beach maintenance continued, and small groups of returning birds have scattered throughout the three county area. Action on the part of the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society resulted in a suspension of maintenance, and a promise from officials that protection will be forthcoming. As of late April, both sanctuaries had been officially posted by the Harrison County Board of Supervisors at the request of MCAS. In addition, a symbolic fencing of the western sanctuary has been accomplished by members of the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society. Members of MOS generously donated more than \$100 to defray costs of the fencing, which ran to almost \$600. Toups expressed hope that new and better protection will alleviate the problems of human intrusion into the westernmost sanctuary.

Saturday field trips to Hancock and Jackson counties were very successful. Although warblers were scarce, the total species count approached 140. Coastal specialties included American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Buff-breasted Sandpipers, White-rumped Sandpipers, and Mottled Ducks with young.--Judith Toups, Secretary

Reviews

A Guide to North American Bird Clubs. By Jon E. Rickert. Avian Publications, Inc., Elizabethtown, KY, 1978: 565+ pp., maps. \$15.00

You finally have enough time to go on an extended birding trip to southeastern Arizona, but you have a problem. Where do you find pertinent information on the best dates to be there, who to contact concerning probable birds, and who to report out-of-the-ordinary birds to? How many times many of us have faced this kind of problem and have had to either go there and hope for the best or make expensive long distance phone calls to individuals who might not even be up on local bird distribution data. Those days are no more. Jon Rickert now gives us that much needed information under the cover of a single book.

The author has taken upon himself the monumental task of not only listing every bird club known to exist in North America, but also listing contact individuals, club addresses, meeting dates and places, field trip preferences, and a host of other important facts. From all indications he has done a superior job.

The book is well organized and divided into chapters on National organizations in the U.S. and Canada, state and local clubs in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Canada, and organizations in other North American nations. Each organization is listed along with an address and the publication of that organization. Local clubs are listed along with an address and addresses and phone numbers of several people in the local area who can be contacted concerning birding information.

The advantages of such a book are many. In addition to the list above, club publications are listed which will facilitate much-needed interclub exchange. In many cases, professional ornithologists are listed which will encourage contact between amateur and professional on a level never before witnessed. Local areas will undoubtedly see some economic gain from increased birding in their areas. It remains to be seen just how many advantages will be reaped as the result of this book.

There are drawbacks to the book, some of which the author recognizes. Three pages are devoted to the plan of the book and how to use it. Reminders on birding etiquette and courtesy are suggested. But, the major drawback is an instantaneous one - the book was out-of-date the minute it came off the press! With so many individuals cited, one could not expect addresses and phone numbers to remain the same. I know personally of one club, with five individuals cited, three of which no longer reside in the area. Fortunately, the author has foreseen this deficiency and will apparently rectify it in the form of a new periodical publication to be circulated in the near future.

To be sure, the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages. The author has performed all that could be expected of him and should be recognized for that. In my opinion, this book warrants a place on the bookshelf right next to my field guides and maps.--C. Dwight Cooley, P.O. Drawer 6Y, Mississippi State, MS 39762

The Birds of John Burroughs. Keeping a Sharp Lookout. Edited and with an introduction by Jack Kligerman, foreword by Dean Amadon, Hawthorn Books, Inc., New York, 1976: 240 pp., photograph of John Burroughs and several black-and-white reproductions of bird drawings by Fuertes. \$3.95, paperback.

This delightful book is a collection of essays that have been reprinted from The Writings of John Burroughs. Burroughs is well-known to an earlier generation as the "Sage of Slabsides." He wrote intimately and philosophically about birds and other life around him. This is a great "fireside" book that contains a wealth of natural history lore.-- J.A.J.

A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela. By Rodolphe Meyer de Schauensee and William H. Phelps, Jr., Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 1978: 424 pp., 53 color and black-and-white plates. \$50.00.

Venezuela is perhaps the South American country most visited by North Americans. It is also blessed with nearly 1300 species of birds. The authors have included all of these in this guide - and each species is illustrated. While the book is slightly larger than a conventional field guide, the authors have done a remarkable job of including basic descriptions, distributions, and habitat preferences of so many birds in a book that can easily be carried and used in the field. The plates by Guy Tudor, H. Wayne Trimm, John Gwynne, and Kathleen D. Phelps, and line drawings by Michel Kleinbaum are generally well done and contribute immeasurably to the usefulness of the guide. The high price of the book is undoubtedly due to the inclusion of the 40 color plates. If you have the opportunity to visit Venezuela, you'll want to take this book along.--J.A.J.

Birds of the South. By Charlotte Hilton Green, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1933 (Dover edition published in 1975): 277 pp., several black-and-white illustrations. \$3.50, paperback.

This book is not a "guide" to southern birds and it is not always accurate in describing the habits and habitats of some of our birds. Nevertheless, it is well-written and worthy of a place on your bird book shelf. Birds of the South is of historical interest because it reflects a bit of the southern culture of the 1930's. Short verses and numerous personal anecdotes add to the book's charm.--J.A.J.

Ravens, Crows, Magpies and Jays. By Tony Angell with a forward by J.F. Lansdowne. University of Washington Press, Seattle and London, 1978: 112 pp., 84 illustrations. \$14.95

It is not often in this day and time that a book comes along which captures the essence of a group of birds as legendary and mythical as the corvids. Tony Angell has done just that. He has personified these beautiful birds with striking line drawings and at the same time conveyed the intricacies of corvid behavior and social organization with his rhetoric as witnessed by the following passage:

Before the coastal mountains around Los Angeles were flattened for homes and punctured by roadways, there were still places that youngsters could hike to and wrap up in the solitude and adventure there. Pairs of Scrub Jays came to scold us as we set up our camps. I remember awakening those mornings to the faint feeling of being watched and, upon looking up, I usually found a jay, head cocked over, staring me full in the face. I came home with such memories along with the usual good dose of poison oak.

The book is very well organized in such a manner that one can acquire a wealth of scientific information concerning food habits, behavior, and measurements while reading about such topics as myth and culture, social strategies, and tool using by corvids. All 19 species known to occur within the U.S. are described and the final chapter contains an extensive bibliography on the Corvidae, for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of corvid biology.

The author has distinguished himself as a superior artist by many of his earlier works and this book is no exception. Well over 80 black-and-white drawings lavishly illustrate many poses of the corvids, revealing many behavioral patterns. One would certainly hope that some of these same poses will come out in the near future in the form of prints.

Finally someone has covered a scientific subject as diverse as corvid biology and made it truly engrossing and interesting. I would wholeheartedly recommend the book to anyone.--C. Dwight Cooley, P.O. Drawer GY, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Pigeons and Doves of the World. By Derek Goodwin, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York, 1970 (first published by Cornell University Press, 1977): 446 pp., numerous small maps and line drawings, three color plates. \$27.50.

Pigeons and doves are found throughout the world and are of interest because of their diversity of form and habits, their frequent association with man, their use for sport, and their frequent symbolic roles in our culture (dove of peace, etc.). In this book Derek Goodwin presents a brief discussion of the adaptive variation of pigeons and doves and a brief technical account of each known living or recently extinct form. The species accounts are illustrated by Robert Gillmor. While the book is not written in a "popular" style, it has received good reviews as an important summary of our knowledge of these birds. The book would be of particular value to zoos, libraries, or anyone interested in raising exotic birds.--J.A.J.

A Guide to Bird Watching. By Joseph J. Hickey, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1975: 252 pp., some line drawings. \$3.00.

Here is a bargain book that every bird-watcher should have. Dr. Hickey first published this guide in 1943 and its popularity has not waned. A Guide to Bird Watching includes chapters dealing with many of the activities that amateur birders become involved in: watching migration, studying bird distribution, bird banding, and others. My particular enthusiasm for the book comes as a result of the extremely useful Appendix C: "Outline for a Life-History Study." This "Outline" is a detailed series of questions, each of which points the reader in the direction of an interesting project with birds. If you are more than a casual birder you will find this book very useful. If you are only a casual birder, after reading this book you will want to become more active.--J.A.J.

THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

Mississippi Ornithological Society
Organized 30 April 1955

Officers

President:	Stephen W. Peterson 2127 E. Northside Drive Jackson, MS 39211
Vice-president:	Larry Gates 2911 Mamie Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Secretary:	Judy Toups 4 Hartford Place Gulfport, MS 39501
Treasurer:	Marita Smith 204 Vernon Road Clinton, MS 39056
Editor:	Jerome A. Jackson Department of Biological Sciences Mississippi State University Mississippi State, MS 39762

MOS Memberships

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

Membership and subscription dues should be sent to the treasurer.
The Mississippi Kite is currently published irregularly and is sent
to all classes of membership.