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Front Cover: Sandwich Terns and Royal Terns nesting on the spoil island off the west tip of Petit Bois Island, Mississippi, June 1979. Photo by J. A. Jackson.

Bronzed Cowbird - First Mississippi Records

Malcolm Hodges and Judith Toups

9 Arbor Circle, Ocean Springs, Ms. and 4 Hartford Place, Gulfport, Ms.

On 6 January 1979, Malcolm Hodges, Judith Toups, Bob Chapel, of Urbana, Illinois, and Jim Chapel, of Pascagoula, Ms., were birding the area known as the Pascagoula River Marsh, specifically, on Port Road at the junction of the L&N Railroad tracks. Upon noting a very large gathering of "Icterid" species, we began a deliberate search for Bronzed Cowbirds (Tangavius aeneus), a species which we felt was "overdue" in this state.

The utility wires and the ground around the railroad tracks were well populated with several readily identifiable species of blackbirds, namely Boat-tailed Grackles (Quiscalus major), Red-winged Blackbirds (Agelaius phoeniceus), and Brown-headed Cowbirds (Molothrus ater) in addition to large flocks of Starlings (Sturnus vulgaris). MH located the first Bronzed Cowbird in only a short time (approximately 30 seconds from the time he began to look for the species). MH tentatively identified the bird on the wire as a Bronzed Cowbird on the basis of its aggressive behavior and a "different" hunch-shouldered appearance... It was small, about the size of a Red-winged Blackbird, (direct size comparison); it was totally black and showed little iridescence. The bird seemed hunched and continually raised and lowered a ruff which covered the nape, upper mantle, and both sides of the neck. Its head was held at shoulder level and looked huge when the bird faced forward (due to the ruffing out of the neck feathers).

The bill was dark and slightly longer and somewhat thinner than those of the Brown-headed Cowbirds nearby, but shorter and more conical than the bill of a Red-winged Blackbird. Later observations seem to indicate that the bill, though dark, can take on a lighter, or "Mother of pearl" quality, in certain lights. The bird had a dark eye. The wings showed no marks, the tail was short and squared. Observation of this first Bronzed Cowbird was made by all four observers at a distance of approximately 175 feet as the bird perched on an overhead utility wire. The sky was overcast and the light was only fair. MH used a spotting scope set at 30X, Toups used a spotting scope set at 20X and Bob Chapel used a scope at 25X. We kept the bird under observation for 2 or 3 minutes until it flew off, none of us had definitely seen the red eye which is said to be the conclusive field mark.

In short succession, Bob Chapel located another Bronzed Cowbird in a group of Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds as they foraged on the ground. Here again, direct size comparisons were made by Toups and Bob and Jim Chapel. This bird was seen to hold a pebble in its mouth, and was noted to be aggressive. Viewing distance for this second

bird was more like 100 feet ... still we did not see the red-eyes and could only see that they were dark, ruling out the Rusty (Euphagus carolinus) or Brewer's (E. cyanocephalus) blackbirds.

The third, and last Bronzed Cowbird was located on the crossbar of a utility pole. He appeared hunched and had the same general characteristics of the first bird. However this bird did show iridescence, the back was shiny, the head bronzy, and the wings appeared to have a greenish sheen. All four observers saw this bird at a distance of 250 feet through scopes, again the red-eye was not visible.

At that time, sure of our identification but disappointed over our group failure to see the red eyes, we wrote our field notes, without referral to a field guide. Hodges and Bob and Jim Chapel left Mississippi later that day and had no further opportunity to find or study the birds.

On the morning of January 7, Toups and Larry Gates found a large group of blackbirds and Starlings about 1000 feet south of the previous day's sighting. They were feeding in an area of spilled grain near the railroad tracks. It took two hours before the first Bronzed Cowbird was located. Using the car for a blind, we approached the birds within 35 feet and located the Bronzed Cowbird, by shape and an aggressive attitude towards the birds close to it. On this occasion we got a brief glimpse of red eyes before the whole flock, which was very skittish, flew off and we lost our bird. About half an hour later and back at the site of the original observations, we found two birds which were easily distinguishable from other blackbird species as they perched on a utility wire. Both birds were preening and while doing so, the greenish iridescence of their all black plumage was seen. Their posture was hunched, and the top of the head appeared broad and flat. Both Toups and Gates remarked upon the posture of Bronzed Cowbird and its resemblance to the posture of Groove-billed Anis (Crotophaga sulcirostris). While preening, both birds erected a ruff of feathers which extended around to the throat area. At that time, to our immense relief, both birds looked down at us from a distance of less than 40 feet, and red eyes were seen. While still overcast, the light was better than on 6 January.

On 9 January, Pete Donaldson of Biloxi added his field notes, having seen conclusive field marks, including the red eyes ... and on 13 January, three other observers, Tom Imhof, Joe Imhof, and Wayne Weber joined Toups and Gates in the area where we located at least fifteen Bronzed Cowbirds, one of which was viewed in a bush at eye level from 30 feet, showing a fine ruff and red eyes. At that time the opinion was voiced that probably many more Bronzed Cowbirds were present in the area.

Bronzed Cowbirds have been seen in the area on six occasions, the last two sightings being of a single bird by a single observer, Toups,

the latest on 25 February 1979. Bronzed Cowbirds are regarded as a western species, and until the early 1970's their easternmost occurrence was in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. By 1975 they occurred in the New Orleans area where they have been recorded since (Imhof, Am. Birds, 32: 1020, 1978).

The occurrence of the Bronzed Cowbird in Jackson County, Ms. is not, however, the easternmost record for this species. Up to five birds were seen in three Florida locations in December 1977 and in January 1978 (Stevenson, Am. Birds, 32:342, 1978).

We noted on several occasions that Bronzed Cowbirds appear to be somewhat aggressive towards other species. They seem to like some distance between themselves and other birds, even when resting on wires. Bob Chapel in his notes, says "dominated Red-winged Blackbirds."

Hodges in field notes remarks ... "The bird's actions were quite peculiar. He continually ruffed out his neck feathers and held his head down. His wings were held down at an angle, away from the body. Wings were occasionally fluttered in the manner of a young bird begging for food. The bird strutted and hopped on the wire with its legs outstretched; he acted very excited and almost flew off twice, coming back to the wire each time. He flew up to a wire a foot above, shoving a Red-wing off, and hovered over the wire for a few seconds before landing."

The authors wish to thank Bob and Jim Chapel, Larry Gates, Wayne Weber, Pete Donaldson, Joe Imhof, and Tom Imhof for their assistance in verifying this record.

Band-tailed Pigeon - First State Record for Mississippi

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At 0810 on 2 December 1978, we discovered a Band-tailed Pigeon (Columba fasciata) near the east end of Petit Bois Island, Jackson Co., Mississippi. Cooley first sighted the pigeon flying low toward the only stand of trees on the island, where we were camped. The bird made several passes around the group of trees and twice attempted to land in a pine within 30 feet of us. The bird was under constant observation for approximately 5 minutes. It then flew back toward the west. At 0857 Cooley again spotted the bird flying at a height of about 30 feet toward the east end of the island. This time the bird flew directly over us and continued east.

At the time of the sighting, the sky was clear. Wind was from the southeast at approximately 10 mph. The temperature was 65°F. A moderately strong cold front moved through the area the night of 30 November-1 December and brought winds and rain from the northwest. December 1 had been unsettled and when we arrived on the island we had noted considerable bird activity near our campsite. The morning of the sighting was the first clear day for 3 days and we again noted intense activity, as normally occurs after a front moves through an area and the weather clears.

Lighting conditions were excellent and as the bird made several turns around our campsite, we were able to observe it from all angles. The following field marks were recorded: flapping flight somewhat reminiscent of a Common Nighthawk (Chordeiles minor). Body heavier than that of a Mourning Dove (Zenaida macroura). The tail was spread quite often and revealed a broad grayish band on a somewhat square tail. There were no concentrated areas of white or black in the plumage as is characteristic of the Rock Dove (Columba livia). Basic plumage color was similar to that of the Mourning Dove. There was a definite two-toned effect to the wings, giving them a dark look, especially at the distal end, grading into the body color at the junction of the wing and body. There was a slight interruption in the basic color in the nape region but no definite pattern could be detected. Although we did not see the characteristic white crescent at the nape, experience of Cooley and Jackson in California and Arizona has shown that this characteristic is not always readily observable. Goodwin (1977) remarks that this characteristic is not always seen.

The Band-tailed Pigeon normally ranges through the western United States to parts of Central America (A.O.U. 1957). Although this sighting represents the first for Mississippi, the Band-tailed Pigeon is a

notorious wanderer and has been seen in surrounding states. In Alabama (Imhof 1976) it was sighted 23 October 1971 on Dauphin Island, only 10 miles east of Petit Bois Island, and as a result is on that state's hypothetical list. On 9 April 1974 one spent 30 minutes at a feeder near Nashville, Tennessee for that state's first and only record (Imhof 1974). There are 2 records for Florida. Letson (1968) reported 2 near Sarasota but Stevenson (1976) believes they were escaped captive birds. In view of the restlessness of this species and the numerous sightings in surrounding states, it is at least possible that these 2 Florida birds were not escapees. The second Florida record of 25-27 September 1974 at Sugarloaf Key was one studied at a feeder (Edscorn 1974). In Louisiana there are 5 records, 4 of these specimens (Lowery 1974). One of these was a bird seen 7 miles south of Lake Pontchartrain.

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Recent Notes on the Cliff Swallow in Mississippi

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The Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) has, until recently, been known to nest in Mississippi only in Tishomingo County, in the extreme northeast (Turcotte 1975). The best-known colony is on the State Highway 25 bridge across Yellow Creek, 9 miles north of Iuka. In 1975, three apparently active nests were reported at the Bull Mountain Creek bridge on State Highway 25 near the south boundary of Itawamba County (Phares 1975). Also the same year, single nests were found at two bridges on the Natchez Trace Parkway in southwestern Mississippi, one each in Claiborne County and Hinds County (Turcotte 1975).

On 11 June 1978, I found a Cliff Swallow nest at the Graysport crossing of Grenada Lake, north of Gore Springs in Grenada County. At this point, a county road crosses the south arm of the lake on a long concrete bridge. Several Cliff Swallows were hawking for insects over the lake along with about 40 Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*). Although the sides of the bridge were difficult to see except from the water, I was able to see one active Cliff Swallow nest near the south end of the bridge, on the west (outer) side of the westernmost of several concrete beams which ran lengthwise beneath the north-south bridge. The nest, made of bright red mud and looking freshly-built, had the typical re-ort shape. During the 15 minutes I watched it, the adults exchanged places on the nest every 2-3 minutes. Another pair of Cliff Swallows kept returning to a spot near the middle of the east side of the bridge, but a nest there would have been impossible to see. Thus it seems that at least 2 pairs of Cliff Swallows were nesting on the bridge, along with many pairs of Barn Swallows.

The Graysport bridge is about 70 miles west-southwest of the Bull Mountain Creek nesting locality. On 20 June 1978 I spent about 30 minutes at the latter place, but saw no Cliff Swallows nor evidence of any Cliff Swallow nests, although about 50 Barn Swallows were present.

I observed the Cliff Swallow colony at Yellow Creek for about 1½ hours on 19 June 1978. The active nests were all on the west side of the concrete bridge, about 10 feet above the water. I counted 23 active nests; at least half of these contained young, several probably contained eggs, and 6 of them were still being built. Several pairs of swallows brought beakfuls of mud to their nests as I watched. Of these 23 nests, all but one were located over water in the central part of the bridge. Although there were many old nests on the east side of the bridge, the only sign of current activity there was one pair which appeared to be nest-building. At least 3 Cliff Swallow nests had been appropriated by House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), as indicated by

pieces of grass or straw protruding from the entrance. One of these, on the east side of the bridge, contained large, noisy young. The two on the west side may not have been active, although a female House Sparrow briefly entered one. Besides Cliff Swallows and House Sparrows, at least 3-4 pairs of Barn Swallows were nesting under the bridge.

The Yellow Creek bridge is slated for removal during construction of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. However, an enormous, high-clearance replacement bridge is presently being built a short distance west of the old one. I predict that Cliff Swallows will begin nesting on the new bridge, and that this colony may become much larger than the original one. The new bridge is very similar to one over the Tennessee River at Pickwick Dam, Tennessee - only 10 miles north of the Yellow Creek bridge - which currently supports several hundred pairs of nesting Cliff Swallows.

The Grenada Lake nesting, plus those on the Natchez Trace Parkway, may be forerunners of a range expansion by Cliff Swallows into the Gulf Coastal Plain, following on the heels of the recent and massive invasion of the same area by Barn Swallows (Kennedy 1974, Jackson and Burchfield 1975). Cliff Swallow numbers appear to be increasing rapidly in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama (D.M. Brown and C.D. Cooley, pers. comm.) and in northern Arkansas (Stewart 1976), and first nesting records have been established recently in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida (Sykes 1976). Cliff Swallows seem to be attracted to Barn Swallow colonies, and nearly all Mississippi nestings have been with, or close to, nesting Barn Swallows. Like Barn Swallows (Jackson and Burchfield 1975), Cliff Swallows in our area nest mainly on concrete bridges, although they seem on average to prefer longer bridges than do Barn Swallows, especially those near large bodies of water. (The Yellow Creek bridge is only a few yards from Pickwick Lake on the Tennessee River, and the Florida nest-site reported by Sykes (1976) was only 200 yards from Lake Okeechobee.) The number of large concrete bridges and water impoundments is rapidly increasing in Mississippi, and it seems possible that Cliff Swallows may colonize at least the northern and central parts of the state in substantial numbers during the next 10 to 20 years.

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Northern Phalarope at Pascagoula - First Photographic Record*

For Mississippi

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On 6 June 1979, JAT and MBH found a Northern Phalarope (Lobipes lobatus), in the northernmost diked pond of the area known as the Pascagoula River Marsh in Jackson County, Ms. This represents the first spring record and the fourth state record of this species in the state. The 6 June observation was of a bird believed to be a male Northern Phalarope coming into breeding plumage ... its coloration was not as bright as suggested in current field guides. It was immediately recognized as to species by the presence very close by of a female Wilson's Phalarope, (Steganopus tricolor). We observed that the Northern Phalarope was notably smaller though somewhat chunkier in appearance ... with a shorter, thicker neck and a thin, needle-like bill which was short by comparison with the bill of a Wilson's Phalarope. The bird was active, swimming and spinning constantly.

On the following day, 7 June, PVD secured photographs of the bird which adequately show color and pattern, hence we have omitted the plumage description. PVD observed the phalarope until mid-afternoon of the 7th, but it was not seen thereafter.

The Northern Phalarope is of rare occurrence, not only in coastal Mississippi, but throughout the interior of the United States as well, it being a bird of the open oceans and, in migration, of coastal bays. The species was first seen in Mississippi by James A. Sanders, in Attala County, on 11 September 1976 (Sanders 1976). That bird was present from 11-13 September and was also observed by Ray Weeks. On 21 September 1976 another winter-plumaged Northern Phalarope was found by Larry Gates at the Hattiesburg lagoons in Forrest County (Gates 1976). It could not be located on the following day. The first coastal occurrence of the species was noted on 10 September 1977 by JAT, Kim Eckert, and Robert P.

*Photo on file at Mississippi State University

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Russell, a winter plumaged bird at the Pascagoula area as described above (Weber and Jackson 1978).

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* * * * *

A Brant on East Ship Island: First Record for Mississippi

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On 1 July 1978, while on the east spit of East Ship Island, I discovered an adult Brant (Branta bernicla) feeding along the edge of a shallow pond. I watched the bird from about 15:00 to 15:30, using a 15-45X spotting scope at distances of 20-125 m. The Brant could fly quite well, although it appeared to have a slight limp when walking.

Field notes made on the spot are as follows: "A small, short-necked goose appearing not much larger than Mallard. Head and neck black except for small horizontal white mark ("half-collar") on each side of neck. Back dark brown, wings somewhat darker. Tail black; rump white or pale. Underparts white (esp. abdomen and under-tail coverts) except for some brownish on flanks and upper breast. Bill and legs black." This clearly describes an adult Brant of the eastern or Atlantic race, Branta bernicla hrota.

Brant are occasionally kept in captivity, and it is possible that the bird I saw was an escaped captive. For an opinion on this matter, I wrote Richard Ryan, director of the Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange, N.J., who is quite knowledgeable about the frequency with which various bird species are kept in captivity. Mr. Ryan's reply (letter of 29 September 1978) reads in part: "... Atlantic race Brant are fairly rare in captivity and most of those found in ... collections are "salvaged" birds, i.e., cripples placed in captivity because of ... wing damage ... Atlantic Brant are notoriously difficult to breed in captivity, and ... tend to lay eggs in June, so that the usual source of escapes (young of the year) would be almost impossible in a fully-feathered, flying bird in July.

... Black Brant are the usual breeding Brant in collections... Wild Brant summering on the East Coast are not really rare and are often relatively tame (injured or illness)... the chances of [your bird] being an escape are really quite slim."

Lowery (1974) makes passing reference to a Brant "in Mississippi Sound off Pass Christian" in January 1961. I wrote the Museum of Zoology at Louisiana State University, and received the following information from Erika Tallman: the Brant in question was apparently heard (but not seen) by a "Mr. Vardaman," and reported to Dr. Lowery in a letter from Mrs. H.A.J. Evans of New Orleans. Despite further inquiries, I have been unable to positively identify "Mr. Vardaman" or to obtain any additional facts about this observation. In view of the fact that this record is based on a second-hand report of a bird heard, but not seen, by an observer of unknown competence, it must be considered questionable.

The nearest regular wintering area for Brant is coastal North Carolina (Bellrose 1976). There are 3 records of Brant from Alabama: 2 from the Tennessee Valley and one from Birmingham (Imhof 1976a, 1976b), and 3 records from coastal Louisiana, including one of the western Black Brant, *Branta bernicla nigricans* (Lowery 1974). All these birds were seen in late fall, winter, or early spring (21 Oct through 1 May), and the Ship Island bird is evidently the first seen in summer on the north-central Gulf Coast. It could have reached coastal Mississippi sometime the previous winter or spring, and sustained some injury, which later healed but which caused it to remain into summer.

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Western Wood Pewee at Bellefontaine Beach, Mississippi

Wayne C. Weber¹, Larry J. Gates², Judith A. Toups³, and Georganne Neubauer⁴

On the morning of 30 September 1978, at Bellefontaine Beach, Jackson County, Mississippi, we observed a Western Wood Pewee (Contopus sordidulus) for 4 or 5 minutes during a 20-minute period; much of this time, it was only about 8 m from us. Lighting was good (thin overcast, but bright sky) and the bird was viewed against a backdrop of dark oak leaves.

The following is excerpted from our field notes: "Small flycatcher, distinctly smaller than Eastern Kingbird [Tyrannus tyrannus] or Olive-sided Flycatcher [Nuttallornis borealis], but larger than Empidonax spp. Posture erect, head appearing distinctly crested. Head, back, wings, and tail brown with an olive cast; wings and tail darker than back. Two whitish wing-bars, but no eye-ring. Sides of breast and upper abdomen brownish-olive, darker than in Eastern Wood Pewee [Contopus virens], and sharply separated from rest of underparts, which were white with a yellowish wash. Upper mandible black; lower mandible slightly paler, but definitely not yellowish or flesh-colored as in Eastern Wood Pewee."

Identification of the bird was based largely on the call. This we described as "two notes, the second slightly higher in pitch: a nasal or burry-sounding "pe-weeep", very different from the clearly whistled, higher-pitched "pe-weee" of the Eastern Wood Pewee, in which the difference in pitch of the two notes is much greater (second much higher). Weber was very familiar with this call-note of the Western Wood Pewee, and Gates had also heard it previously.

The bird's behavior also seemed different from that typical of Eastern Wood Pewees. It perched on dead upright snags and dead branches of trees in the open, 2 to 5 m above ground. (The habitat was open live oak (Quercus virginiana) woods, with trees 8 to 13 m tall.) Eastern Wood Pewees, although often perching in the open, in Weber's experience tend to perch more often within the canopy, and at greater heights than Western Wood Pewees.

A more complete account of our observation is on file at the bird collections of Mississippi State University and Louisiana State University.

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The Western Wood Pewee is a rare bird east of the Mississippi River. (Records from Audubon Field Notes and American Birds are cited below as AFN and AB, respectively.) There is one previous Mississippi record, a bird collected on 10 September 1960 at Cleveland by J. Alan Feduccia (AFN 15:49, 1961, Gandy and Turcotte 1970), which was reported as the first record east of the Mississippi. There is only one Louisiana record, a bird taken in Cameron Parish on 10 October 1965 (Lowery 1974), and the species is a rare migrant even in eastern Texas. Besides the two Mississippi records, we can find only 5 other published reports of occurrences east of the Mississippi: (1) 4 birds at Ocean City, Maryland between 12 and 26 September 1961 (AFN 16:17, 1962); (2) one collected at Ocean City, Maryland on 1 September 1967 (AFN 22:20, 1968); (3) a singing male seen at Point Pelee, Ontario on 17 May 1968 (AFN 22:522, 1968, James et al. 1976); (4) a singing male seen at Point Pelee on 15 May 1969 (AFN 23:585, 1969, James et al. 1976); and (5) a singing male seen at Monomoy, Massachusetts on 28 May 1976 (AB 30:814, 1976 and 31:231, 1977). All these eastern records were in the months of May and September; the coastal Mississippi record falls nicely into this seasonal pattern. It also seems significant that several of these eastern records (at least records (3), (4), and (5)) were of birds identified by voice. We suggest that Western Wood Pewees may occur more often in the East than indicated by these few records, but that they are often overlooked unless they happen to vocalize.

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First Mississippi Breeding Record of Blue-winged Teal

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On 9 June 1979 JAT discovered an adult female Blue-winged Teal, (Anas discors) shepherding six slightly-larger-than-half-grown young in the area known as the Pascagoula River Marsh in Jackson County, Ms. The locality was a shallow roadside pond of fresh-brackish water just east of the industrial road which leads to Ingalls West Bank Shipyard.

Upon her approach, the female herded the young into the marsh grass and they did not reappear for several minutes. When they did reappear, they confined movements close to the pond edge. The young showed traces of down remaining on backs and rumps; their plumage was mottled, and each had a dark brown crown patch, very much like smaller editions of the adult female.

On 10 June, PVD took numerous photographs of the female and young at the same pond. On that occasion the teal were resting on the mud bank. PVD noted what were presumably the same birds later that week, but no further observations were made by either PVD or JAT.

The Blue-winged Teal is known to breed sparingly in Alabama, but only one record of breeding comes from the coastal area, that being Mobile County (Imhof 1976). The species also breeds in the Louisiana marshes, (Lowery 1974), being at times common and at other times rare as a breeding species. There are no known records of previous breeding in Mississippi.

Recent summer records of Blue-winged Teal in the Pascagoula River Marsh are numerous, with maximum number of 9 (males and females) in June, 1977, and of 12 (males and females) in June, 1978 ... and noted by many observers, (JAT, Robert P. Russell, Jerome A. Jackson, Wayne C. Weber, Bette J. Schardien, and Malcolm B. Hodges).

Breeding of the Blue-winged Teal in the Pascagoula area could have occurred as early as 1978. On 9 August 1978, JAT, Thomas Howell, and Martha Hays observed two young with adults in the diked pond west of this season's site. The young, although slightly smaller than the adults, were capable of flight, therefore positive breeding evidence was lacking.

Most Blue-winged Teal had migrated from the Pascagoula area at the time this 9 June breeding record was obtained ... only one adult male remained at the diked pond until at least 6 June (JAT, Malcolm Hodges).

Drake Blue-winged Teal usually desert their mates around the third week of incubation. The female and her brood often travel overland from

their nest sites to ponds selected by the female for brood rearing. They often leave one pond and travel overland to another nearby (Bellrose 1976), but a search of other pond areas in the vicinity on 16 June was unproductive.

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Vermilion Flycatcher in Issaquena County, Mississippi

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On 2 December 1978 I was in a duck blind in a beaver pond about one mile northwest of Albermarle Lake in Issaquena County when I saw a female Vermilion Flycatcher (Pyrocephalus rubinus). She was in view, off and on, for about four hours that morning and I observed her at distances from 40 yards to 75 or 80 yards. She had several perches, usually on the branches or tops of dead trees, and sat on each one for several minutes, making short flights into the air and then returning to the perch. After a few minutes on one perch, she would move to another perch and repeat the performance. Occasionally she would disappear but would always reappear. The color on her flanks appeared to be more orange-red than shown in field guides, and was brilliant.

I returned the next day and the bird was still there, never more than 100 yards from the blind and sometimes as close as 30 to 40 yards. Using binoculars I had excellent viewing. She remained in the vicinity of the blind all morning until I left at noon.

On 10 December I returned to the blind and again saw the bird in the same area. I observed her again, off and on, for about four or five hours. I did not see any other Vermilion Flycatchers, only the one female. After 10 December I did not return to the area.

During the fall of 1976 and 1977 I saw a male Vermilion Flycatcher near the levee about one mile north of Delta, La., which is just across the Mississippi River from Vicksburg. Along with several others, I saw this bird three or four times during October, November, and December each year. We never saw more than one bird and assumed it was the same one each time because it was always in the same area. I do not know of any sighting of Vermilion Flycatchers in that area this past fall or this winter.

Birds Around the State: December 1978 through May 1979

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The following is a summary of noteworthy bird sightings in Mississippi and some immediately adjacent areas for the period December 1978 through May 1979. The list of sightings is followed by a key to observers' initials and another key identifying localities mentioned. A list of errata for the last "Birds Around the State" follows these keys. 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; (E) = exceptionally early date; (L) = exceptionally late date; (N) = unusually large number; (R) = species rare in the area.

Other abbreviations used include the following: m = male, f = female, imm = immature, ad = adult, pr = pair, pl = plumage.

All contributors please note instructions given in the Mississippi Kite 8(2):61-62, for submission of records.

- COMMON LOON -- 75, 4 Mar., Gulfport Harbor, JT; 1, Bellefontaine Beach, 23 May, JT, WW; 1, 24 May, Horn I., DC, JJ.
- HORNED GREBE -- 120, 4 Mar., Gulfport harbor, LG, JT; 2, Hattiesburg, 28 Apr., LG, JT; 1, 6 May, Ocean Springs, JT; 1, 8 May, Hattiesburg, LG.
- EARED GREBE -- 1, 8 Mar., PRM, JT, GM; present all winter, 2, 8 May, 1, 2 June (breeding plumage), Hattiesburg sewage lagoons, LG, TF.
- WHITE PELICAN -- 17, 25 Feb., W. Ship I., JJ, DC; 60, 15 Apr., Gautier, JT, LG; 10, 22 Apr., Horn I., JJ, DC; 200, 25 Apr., Jackson Co., JT; 130, 5 May, Ocean Springs, JT.
- BROWN PELICAN -- 24 (all imm.), 12 Mar., west tip Horn I., JT, GG; 3, 12 Mar., spoil bank near Deer I., JT, GG; 1, 6 May, Horn I., JC; 7, 13 May, Horn I., JC; 1 imm., 18 May, West Ship I., DS; 3 (1 ad., 2 imm.), 19 May, West Ship I., WW.
- GANNET -- 37 (20 ad., 17 imm.), 12 Mar., south of E and W Ship I., JT, GG; 1, 22 Apr., Horn I., JJ, DC (L).
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- 1, 24 Feb., Noxubee NWR, JS; 1, 22 May, Ocean Springs, MHO; 5, 25 May, Bellefontaine Beach, WW; 1, 27 May, Cat I., WW, JT (L).
- ANHINGA - 4, 9 May, Merrill, WW; 4, 12 May, Yazoo NWR, MOS.
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD -- 14, 22 Apr., Ocean Springs, JP; 61, 23 May, Horn I., DC.
- GREAT BLUE HERON -- ca 50 nests, Round I., 6-10 nests, Horn I., 6-10 nests, E. Ship I., 14 Apr., JJ, DC.

- GREEN HERON -- 1, 25 Mar., Vicksburg, HM; 1, 6 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NoH (A).
- LITTLE BLUE HERON -- 3 ad., 31 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 1, 13 May, Vicksburg, HM.
- CATTLE EGRET -- 1, 18 Jan., Noxubee NWR, JS, EP; 1, 27 Mar., Vicksburg, HM; 2, 3 Apr., Sturgis, WW; 1, 11 Apr., Greenville, JH.
- REDDISH EGRET -- 1, 13 Apr., West Ship I., reported to SU; 3 (1 white-phase), 22 Apr., Horn I., JJ, DC; 2, 23 Apr., Long Beach, JT; 2, 24 Apr., W. Ship I., JJ, DC; 1, 20 May, Horn I., MHO.
- GREAT EGRET -- 10, 11 Dec., Noxubee NWR, JS, EP.
- SNOWY EGRET -- 1, 22 Jan., Hattiesburg, LG.
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON -- 1, 31 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (A).
- LEAST BITTERN -- 1, 19 Apr., PRM, JT; 5, 6 May, PRM, JT, EP, CR; 5, 12 May, Yazoo NWR, MÖS (one of few known inland nesting areas in Mississippi).
- AMERICAN BITTERN -- 1, 27 Mar. and 21 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW.
- WHITE IBIS -- 1, 18 Mar., Escatawpa, JT; 2, 28 Apr., Merrill, LG, JT (U); 1, 20 May, Vicksburg, HM.
- WHISTLING SWAN -- 1, 20 Dec., Walls, LG, PG; 2, 5 Feb., near Noxubee NWR, Oktibbeha Co., EP.
- SNOW GOOSE -- 11, 26 Feb., near Noxubee NWR, Oktibbeha Co., EP; 7 (3 white, 4 blue), 10 Mar., Hancock Co., JT (D).
- MALLARD -- 1 m, 23 May, PRM, WW (L).
- BLACK DUCK -- 1, 15 Apr., Jackson Co., LG, JT; 7, 6 May, same place, KS, JT, EP.
- MOTTLED DUCK -- 68, 13 May, Jackson Co., JT (N); 47, 14 May, PRM, MHO, EG (N).
- GADWALL -- 24, 18 Mar., Bayou Cassotte, JT, DK (N); 20, 31 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (D); 5, 29 Apr., PRM, WW (L).
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL -- 3, 31 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (D).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL -- 12, 18 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 110, 29 Apr., PRM WW (N).
- AMERICAN WIGEON -- 1, 31 Mar., Jackson Co., LG, JT, MN, GN (D).
- NORTHERN SHOVELER -- 50+, 31 Mar., Jackson Co., LG, JT, MN, GN (N); 1, 14 May, PRM, MHO, EG.
- WOOD DUCK -- 2 (m & f), 22 Mar., Buccaneer State Park, JT, GM; 2 (m & f), 31 Mar., Sheperd State Park, JT, LG, MN, GN; 1 f with 7 yg., 28 Apr., PRM, LG, JT.
- REDHEAD -- 1, 9 Apr., Jackson Co., JT, BB, MH (D).
- RING-NECKED DUCK -- 2 (pr.), 27 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (D); 1, 31 Mar., Bayou Cassotte, JT, LG, MN, GN (D).
- CANVASBACK -- 1, 5 Apr., Jackson Co., JT, MH (D).
- GREATER SCAUP -- 1, 15 Apr., PRM, LG, JT (D).
- LESSER SCAUP -- 730, 4 Mar., Gulfport Harbor, JT (N); 27 (mostly f), 20 Apr., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, WW (D); 10, 25 Apr., PRM, JT.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE -- 2, 6 Dec., Kosciusko, JS; 1, 24 Mar., Clermont Harbor, JT, DK (D).
- BUFFLEHEAD -- 300+, 4 Mar., Gulfport Harbor, JT (N); 1, 18 Apr., Biloxi, JT (D).

- OLDSQUAW -- 17, 12 Mar., N. of Ship I., JT; 1, 25 Apr., Biloxi, JT (D).
 BLACK SCOTER -- 4, 15 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT, LG.
 RUDDY DUCK -- 24, 10 Mar., Clermont Harbor, JR, JT, BMC (D); 10, 31 Mar.,
 Noxubee NWR, WW (D).
 HOODED MERGANSER -- 150, 11 Dec., Noxubee NWR, JS, EP; 2, 3 Mar., Jackson
 Co., MBH, JT; 10, 31 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW.
 RED-BREASTED MERGANSER -- 179, 12 Mar., between Biloxi and Horn I., JT;
2, 29 Apr., Jackson Co., LG, JT; 1, 12 May, Biloxi, JT; 1, 18 May,
 Ocean Springs, MHO, EG; 3, 20 May, Ocean Springs, MHO.
 SWALLOW-TAILED KITE -- 1, 19 Mar., east Pearl R. bridge, U.S. 90 (on La.-
 Miss. border) RR, (A); 1, 25 Mar., Gulf Park Airport, JT, DK, MN, GN;
2, 1 Apr., Logtown, LG, JT (A).
 MISSISSIPPI KITE -- 1, 6 Apr., near Hattiesburg, JT (A); 4, 11 Apr.,
 Archer I., JH (A); 1, 15 Apr., near Wade, WW (A); 3, 28 Apr., near
 Hattiesburg, LG, JT; 2, 25 May, Wade, MHO, JT; 1, 28 Apr., Vicksburg,
 HM; 3, 7 May, Sunflower (near Perkinston), RL; 2, pr. building nest
 in residential area, early May, Picayune, GH.
 SHARP-SHINNED HAWK -- 1, 8 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT (D).
 RED-TAILED HAWK -- 1, 10 May, Latimer, MHO, DK; 1, 14 May, Ocean Springs,
 MHO, EG; 1, 27 May, N. of Ocean Springs, PD (R in summer on coast).
 BROAD-WINGED HAWK -- 2, 1 Apr., Logtown, LG, JT (A); 1, 7 Apr.,
 Homochitto NF, HM; 8, 25 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NoH.
 BALD EAGLE -- 2, 11 Dec., 1, 26 Dec., Noxubee NWR, JS, EP; 2, 18 Jan.,
 Noxubee NWR, JS, EP; 1, 24 Feb., Noxubee NWR, JS; 1, 1 Mar., Ross
 Barnett Res., HM; 2, 25 Mar., Harrison Co., JT.
 MARSH HAWK -- 1, 24 Feb., Noxubee NWR, JS.
 OSPREY -- 4, 24 Feb., E. Ship I., JJ; 1, 25 Feb., W. Ship I., JJ, DC;
1, 3, 11, & 18 Mar., Bayou Cassotte, JT, MHO, DK; 1, 18 Mar.,
 Bellefontaine Beach, JT, LG, MN, GN; 1, 31 Mar., 15 & 29 Apr., 23
 May, PRM, LG, WW, JT; 1, 11 Apr., Noxubee NWR, TR (A); 1, 15 Apr.,
 Biloxi, JT, LG; 15 active nests, Escatawpa River bottom; 6 active
 nests, E. Ship I.; 10 active nests, Horn I.; 3 active nests, Round I.;
 all on 15 Apr., found during aerial survey, JJ, DC; 1, 25 Apr.,
 Archer I., NoH; 1, 26 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; 1, 5-6 May & 18-19 May,
 near Troy, MS, DH.
 PEREGRINE FALCON -- 1, 25 Feb., W. Ship I., JJ, DC; 1, 29 Apr., PRM, WW
 (R).
 AMERICAN KESTREL -- 1, 15 May, Little Creek, WW; 1, 25 May, Vancleave, MH,
 JT.
 MISSISSIPPI SANDHILL CRANE -- 3, 18 Mar., 15 & 25 Apr., Gulf Park Airport,
 JT, LG, DK.
 PURPLE GALLINULE -- 2, 6 May, PRM, KS, JT (U); 4, 7 May, PRM, JT, BT;
10, 12 May, Yazoo NWR, MOS (N); 1, 19 May, West Ship I., WW.
 AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER -- 1, 25 Mar., Gautier side of PRM, JT, DK, MN,
 GN (R).
 SEMIPALMATED PLOVER -- ca 30 (in small groups), 25 Feb., W. Ship I., JJ,
 DC; 6, 1 May, Noxubee NWR, WW (N); 10, 7 May, Jackson Co., JT, WT (N).
 SNOWY PLOVER -- 1, 16 May, Gulfport, DG (R); 2, 19 May, W. Ship I., WW;
2, 19 May, Gulfport, MHO.

- WILSON'S PLOVER -- 3, 5 Apr., PRM, JT, MG (A); 7, (3 m, 4 f), 19 May, W. Ship I., WW; 2 f, 27 May, Cat I., WW, JT, MBH.
 AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER -- 1, 10 Mar., Port Bienville Industrial Park, JT, JR, BMC; 1, 11 Mar., PRM, JT; 24, 11 Mar., Bayou Cassotte, JT; 18, 24 Mar., Port Bienville, JT; 100+, 27 Mar., Biloxi, PD (N); 2, 1 Apr., Gulfport Harbor, LG, JT; 1, 1 Apr., Port Bienville Industrial Park, LG, JT.
 RUDDY TURNSTONE -- 47, 13 May, PRM, JT (N); 51, 17 May, PRM, MHO, WW, (N).
 AMERICAN WOODCOCK -- 1, 20 Dec., Kosciusko, JS.
 COMMON SNIBE -- 1, 29 Apr., PRM, LG, JT (D).
 WHIMBREL -- 2, 31 Mar., PRM, LG, JT, MN, GN (U); 2, 6 May, near GCRL, JT; 2, 10 May, Ocean Springs, WW (U).
 UPLAND SANDPIPER -- 4+, 27-28 Mar., Biloxi, PD, JP (R); 2, 29 Mar., Starkville, DC, WW (A); 3, 28 Apr., Biloxi, JT, LG (R); 30 Apr., Biloxi, PD (D, R).
 SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- 25, 28 Apr., Hattiesburg Lagoons, LG, JT; 7, 28 Apr., PRM, LG, JT (N).
 SOLITARY SANDPIPER -- 1, 3 Mar., PRM, JT, MHO (A); 1, 27 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 7, 28 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG, JT; 1, 29 Apr., Vicksburg, HM.
 WILLET -- 100+, 31 Mar., PRM, JT, LG, MN, GN (N); 1, 3 May, Starkville, DC (R migrant inland).
 LESSER YELLOWLEGS -- 4, 31 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 30, 1 May, Noxubee NWR, WW (N).
 RED KNOT -- 40, 23 Feb., W. Ship I., DC, JJ; 1, 6 May, PRM, JT, KS, EP (U); 1, 27 May, Cat I., WW, JT, MBH (L).
 PECTORAL SANDPIPER -- 6, 11 Mar., Bayou Cassotte, JT (A); 17, 22 Mar., Starkville, BS; 30, 25 Mar., PRM, JT, DK, MN, GN (N); 50, 1 May, Noxubee NWR, WW; 5, 13 May, PRM, JT (D).
 WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER -- 4, 29 Apr., PRM, LG, JT (A); 1, 1 May, Noxubee NWR, WW; 7, 12 May, Greenville, LG, JT, NoH; 134, 13 May, PRM, JT (N); 100, 23 May, PRM, WW, JT.
 LEAST SANDPIPER -- 100, 1 May, Noxubee NWR, WW (N).
 DUNLIN -- 1200, 31 Mar., PRM, JT, LG, MN, GN (N).
 SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER -- 269, 31 Mar., PRM, LG, JT, MN (N).
 LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER -- 37, 3 Mar., PRM, JT, MHO; 50+, 31 Mar., PRM, JT, LG, MN, GN (N).
 STILT SANDPIPER -- 25, 31 Mar., PRM, LG, JT, MN, GN (A); 106, 14 May, PRM, MHO, EG (N); 95, 23 May, PRM, WW, JT (N).
 SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER -- 3, 15 Apr., PRM, LG, JT (A); 2500, 23 May, PRM, WW, JT (N).
 WESTERN SANDPIPER -- 500+, 31 Mar., PRM, JT, LG, MN, GN (N); 3 (breeding pl.), 17 May, PRM, WW, MHO (L).
 BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER -- 5+, 27-28 Mar., Biloxi, PD, JP; 4, 28 Apr., Gulfport Harbor, JT, LG.
 MARBLED GODWIT -- 1, 31 Mar., PRM, JT, LG (U); 1, 27 May, Cat I., JT, WW (R, L)

- AMERICAN AVOCET -- 194, 15 Apr., PRM, LG, JT, WW (N); 160, 29 Apr., PRM, WW, (N); 208, 8 Apr., PRM, JT (N); 73, 14 May, PRM, MHO, EG; 20, 29 May, PRM, MHO.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT -- 1, 3 Mar., PRM, JT, MHO; 38, 31 Mar., PRM, JT, LG, MN, GN; 49, 5 Apr., PRM, JT, MHO; 42, 8 Apr., PRM, JT; 16, 25 Apr., PRM, JT; 17, 13 May, PRM, JT; 15, 14 May, PRM, MHO, EG; 30, 23 May, PRM, JT, WW; 3, 27 May, Cat I., WW, JT, MBH (R); 37, 29 May, PRM, MHO.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE -- 3, 28 Apr., PRM, LG, JT; 24 (23 f, 1 m), 29 Apr., PRM, WW, PD, JP (N); 7, 6 May, PRM, JT; 1 f, 17 May, PRM, WW MHO (D).
- HERRING GULL -- 3 imm., 27 May, Cat I., WW, JT, MBH.
- RINGED-BILL GULL -- 1, 4 Dec., Kosciusko, JS.
- LAUGHING GULL -- 1, 12 May, Greenville, JT, LG, NoH (R inland).
- BONAPARTE'S GULL -- 300, 31 Mar., PRM, JT, LG, MN, GN (N); 12 (some with black heads), 14 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (R migrant); 3, 23 May, PRM, JT, WW.
- GULL-BILLED TERN -- 1, 9 Apr., PRM, JT, AD, BB, MH; 12, 28 Apr., PRM, LG, JT (N).
- FORSTER'S TERN -- 1, 22 Jan., Hattiesburg, LG (R inland in winter).
- LEAST TERN -- 12, 8 Apr., Gulfport, JT.
- BLACK TERN -- 1, 25 Mar., Bayou Cassotte, JT, DK, MN, GN (A); 1 ad., 23 Apr., Gulfport, JT.
- GROUND DOVE -- 1, 17 May, near Bethel, RL.
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO -- 1, 5 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT (A); 1, 14 Apr., Homochitto NF, HM; 2, 19 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 1, 21 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; numerous, 25 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NoH.
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO -- 1, 25 Apr., Ocean Springs, SU (A); 1, 28 Apr., Hattiesburg, JT, LG (A); 1, 25 May, Ocean Springs, JT.
- BURROWING OWL -- 1, 25 Feb., W. Ship I. (in Ft. Massachusetts), JJ, DC (R).
- CHUCK-WILL'S WIDOW -- 1, 7 Apr., Homochitto NF, HM; 1, 12 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; 10, 14 Apr., Miss. Hwy. 25, Winston Co., WW (A); 1 singing, 14 Apr., Gulfport, JT (A); 8 seen, many more heard at Bellefontaine Beach, 28 Apr., JT, LG.
- WHIP-POOR-WILL -- 1, 27 Mar., Gulfport, JT; 1, 14 Apr., Miss. Hwy. 25, Winston Co., WW (A).
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK -- 2, 15 Apr., near Vancleave, WW; 1, 20 Apr., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, WW (A); 10, 28 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, LG, JT; 1, 15 May, Vicksburg, HM.
- CHIMNEY SWIFT -- 2, 17 Mar., Kosciusko, WW, (E); 4, 21 Mar., Hattiesburg, LG (A); 24 Mar., Vicksburg, HM; 3, 24 Mar., Hancock Co., JT, DK (A); 1, 25 Mar., Starkville, GP (A); 100, 29 Mar., Starkville, WW (A).
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 m, 23 Mar., Vicksburg, HM; 1 f, 7 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; 1, 14 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 3, 25 May, Wade, JT, MHO (including one f on nest in live oak at height of 18 feet, short distance from nest and incubating f found in July 1978 [2nd coastal breeding record]).
- EASTERN KINGBIRD -- 6, 31 Mar., Bellefontaine Beach, JT, LG, MN, GN; 14 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; 4, 15 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH, JCH.

- GRAY KINGBIRD -- 1, 13 Apr., Biloxi, PD (R); 5, 20-21 Apr., Horn I. ranger station, JJ, DC.
- GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER -- 1, 31 Mar., Bellefontaine Beach, LG, JT, MN, GN (A); 1, 6 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; 1, 11 Apr., Archer I., NoH (A); 1, 14 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW, (A); 27, 25 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT.
- ACADIAN FLYCATCHER -- 2, 19 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 4, 28 Apr., Hattiesburg area, LG, JT.
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- 1 f, 2-10 Dec., near Albemarle L., Issaquena Co., LC.
- EASTERN WOOD PEWEE -- 1, 5 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT, MH (A); 1, 14 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 1, 25 Apr., Vicksburg, HM.
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER -- 1, 12 May, Yazoo NWR, WW (R).
- TREE SWALLOW -- 1, 11 Mar., Vicksburg, HM; 1, 20 Mar., near Longview, WW (A); 2, 28 Apr., PRM, JT, LG (D).
- BANK SWALLOW -- 1, 26 May, N of Bethel, WW (D).
- ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- 1, 10 Mar., Port Bienville Industrial Park, JR, JT, BMC; 3, 27 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 2 active nests, 6 May, Ocean Springs, JT.
- BARN SWALLOW -- 1, 10 Mar., Bay St. Louis, JT, JR, BMC (A); 1, 28 Mar., Vicksburg, HM.
- PURPLE MARTIN -- 1, 13 Feb., Kosciusko, JS.
- FISH CROW -- 1, 11 Mar., Vicksburg, HM.
- BROWN CREEPER -- 1, 28 Mar., near Longview, WW; 7 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG (D).
- SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN -- 2 m singing, 6 May, near Longview, WW (L).
- GRAY CATBIRD -- 1, 9 Mar., Starkville, EP (E); 1, 6 Apr., Archer I., NoH (A); 1, 6 May, Vicksburg, HM; 1, 23 May, PRM, JT (L).
- ROBIN -- 1, 25 Mar., Bellefontaine Beach, JT, LG, MN (D).
- WOOD THRUSH -- 1, 3 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; 2, 13 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 8, 28 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, LG, JT.
- HERMIT THRUSH -- 1, 24 Mar., Buccaneer State Park, JT, LG (D); 1, 31 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (D); 1, 10 Apr., Ocean Springs, SU (D).
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH -- 1, 25 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT (A); heavy nocturnal migration (birds heard overhead), 24-25 Apr., Starkville, WW (A); 1 m singing, 26 May, Bethel, WW (D).
- GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH -- 1, 15 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, LG, JT (A).
- VEERY -- heavy nocturnal migration, 24-25 Apr., Starkville, WW (A); 2, 25 Apr., Ocean Springs, SU (A); 1, 25 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT (A).
- EASTERN BLUEBIRD -- 3 ad., 4 young (in nest), 10 May, Latimer, MHO, DK.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 1, 21 Mar., Vicksburg, HM; 15, 27 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 20, 5 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT; dozens, 28 Apr., Hattiesburg to coast, JT, LG.
- GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET -- 1, 27 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (D).
- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- 5, 6 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NoH (A); 1, 15 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT, LG (D); 1, 30 Apr., near Vossburg, WW, DC (D).
- CEDAR WAXWING -- 200+, 8 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT; 1, 25 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NoH; 15, 25 Apr., Choctaw, NoH; 4, 29 Apr., Gulfport, JT, LG;

- 40, 8 May, McHenry, WW; 1, 18 May, Vicksburg, HM; 5, 24 May, Horn I., JJ, DC, BS.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO -- 4, 22 Mar., Buccaneer State Park, JT (A); 4, 27 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 1, 6 Apr., Archer I., NoH (A).
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO -- 5, 27 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 1, 31 Mar., Bellefontaine Beach, JT, LG, MN, GN.
- SOLITARY VIREO -- 1, 10 Apr., Ocean Springs, SU; 1, 16 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, WW (L); 1, 28 Apr., Merrill, LG, JT.
- RED-EYED VIREO -- 1, 31 Mar., Sheperd State Park, LG, JT; 3, 14 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (A).
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO -- 1, 15 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach; 1, 28 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG, JT; 1 m singing, 25 & 26 May, Gulfport, JT; 1, 12 May, Greenville, JT, LG, NoH.
- WARBLING VIREO -- 1 m singing, 17 Apr., Gulfport, JT (A); 1, 26 Apr., West Ship I., SU; 1 m singing, 1 May, Noxubee NWR, WW; 1, 9 May, Merrill, WW.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER -- 1 m, 20 Mar., near Longview, WW (A); 1, 22 Mar., Buccaneer State Park, JT, GM (A); 1, 24 Mar., Homochitto NF, HM; 6, 25 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT.
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER -- 4, 25 Mar., Bayou Cassotte, JT, DK, MN, GN (A); 1, 29 Mar., Vicksburg, HM; 3, 31 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (E); 7, 5 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT, MH; numerous, 25 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NoH; 15, 28 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG, JT.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER -- 6 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG (A); 1 m, 15 Apr., near Wade, WW (A); 1 m, 17 Apr., Merrill, WW (A); 1, 19 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 2, 28 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG, JT; 2 m, 9 May, Merrill, WW; 1 m singing, 21 May, De Soto NF, Harrison Co., WW.
- WORM-EATING WARBLER -- 2, 10 Apr., Ocean Springs, SU (A); 1, 14 Apr., Homochitto NF, HM; 1, 15 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, LG, JT (A); 1, 15 Apr., near Vossburg, WW (A); 25 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG.
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER -- 23 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG.
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER -- 1, 9 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT, AD, BB, MH (A); 1, 13 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 1, 15 Apr., near Vossburg, WW (A); 4, 23 Apr., 1, 5 May, Hattiesburg, LG.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER -- 1, 7 Dec., 1, 8 Dec., Kosciusko, JS; 1, 31 Mar., Sheperd State Park, LG, JT (A); 6 Apr.- 5 May, Hattiesburg, LG; 3, 21 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 1, 29 Apr., Vicksburg, HM.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 1, 17 Mar., Kosciusko, WW (A); 1, 1 Apr., Hancock Co., LG, JT (D); 2, 7 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG (D).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER -- 2, 20 Apr., West Ship I., SU; 1 m, 21 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (A, U).
- NORTHERN PARULA -- 1 m (found dead), 8 Mar., Biloxi, MG (A); 3, 15 Mar., Hattiesburg, LG; 5 m, 27 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 6 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NoH (A).
- YELLOW WARBLER -- 1, 15 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, LG, JT (A); 1 m, 18 Apr., Starkville, WW (A); 23 Apr.- 10 May, Hattiesburg, LG.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER -- 1, 25 Apr., Gulfport, JT (A); 25 Apr.- 5 May, Hattiesburg, LG; 1 m, 6 May, Vicksburg, HM.

- CAPE MAY WARBLER -- 3 (2 m, 1 f), 20 Apr., West Ship I., SU (R, E); 1, 22 Apr., Horn I., JJ, DC (R); 2, 5 May, Hattiesburg, LG.
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER -- 1 m, 15 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, LG, JT (A); 1 f, Bellefontaine Beach, 25 Apr., JT; 1 m, 21 Apr., Horn I., JJ, DC (R).
- YELLOW-RUMPED (MYRTLE) WARBLER -- 15, 23 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG; 28 Apr., Biloxi, PD (D); 2 m (singing), 26 Apr., Gulfport, JT (D); 1, 6 May, Noxubee NWR, WW (D).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER -- 1 m, 25 Mar., Vicksburg, HM; 2, 25 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG.
- CERULEAN WARBLER -- 25 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG; 1, 25 Apr., Gulfport, JT; 2 m, 3 f, 26 Apr., Gulfport, JT.
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER -- 1, 15 Apr., near Vossburg, WW (A); 2 m, 26 Apr., Gulfport, JT; 5 May, Hattiesburg, LG; 1 f, 23 May, Bellefontaine Beach, WW, JT; 1 f, 24 May, Gulfport, JT.
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER -- 2 m, 18 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 27 Mar., Hattiesburg, LG (A); 1, 11 Apr., Choctaw, NoH (A).
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER -- 25 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG.
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER -- 1, 28 Apr., Merrill, JT, LG (A); 9, 28 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT, LG; 5 May, Hattiesburg, LG; 2 m, 1 f, 25 May, Wade, JT, MHO (D).
- BLACKPOLL WARBLER -- 1, 16 Apr., West Ship I., SU (E); 1 m singing, 17 Apr., Gulfport, JT; 10, 25 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT; 1 m, 25 Apr., Oktibbeha Co. L., WW (A).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER -- 1 m singing, 1 Apr., N of Long Beach, LG, JT (A); 7 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG (A); 1, 14 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (A).
- PALM WARBLER -- 10, 18 Apr., near Longview, WW (A); 3, 25 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT (D).
- OVENBIRD -- 1, 2 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG; 1 m, 13 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; 1, 22 Apr., near Vossburg, WW (A).
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH -- 5 May, Hattiesburg, LG.
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH -- 1, 18 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (E); 1, 24 Mar., Homochitto NF, HM; 7 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG (A); 1, 28 Apr., Biloxi, PD (L); 1, 29 Apr., West Ship I., SU (L); 1 m singing, 21 May, Aerey, WW.
- KENTUCKY WARBLER -- 1, 7 Apr., Homochitto NF, HM; 3 (2 m, 1 f), 10 Apr., Ocean Springs, SU (A); 3, 13 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 1, 15 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT, LG.
- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT -- 1, 6 Dec., Kosciusko, JS.
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT -- 1, 11 Apr., Noxubee NWR, CP (E); 2, 15 Apr., near Vossburg, WW (A); 1, 15 Apr., Sheperd State Park, JT, LG; 1, 21 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; 1, 25 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NH.
- HOODED WARBLER -- 1 m, 31 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (E); 25+, 1 Apr., N. of Long Beach, LG, JT.
- WILSON'S WARBLER -- 1 m, 25 Apr., Gulfport (A); 1 f, 26 Apr., Gulfport, JT; 1 f, 29 Apr., Gulfport, LG, JT.
- CANADA WARBLER -- 1 m, 21 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 1 m singing, 28 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG, JT (A); 5 May, Hattiesburg, LG.

- AMERICAN REDSTART -- 1, 15 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT, LG (A); 2, 19 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 1 f, 6 May, Vicksburg, HM; 1, 27 May, near Wade, PD.
- BOBOLINK -- 25, 20 Apr., Bolivar-Sunflower Co. Line Rd., JH; 8 m, 21 Apr., Horn I., JJ, DC (E); 15 (14 m, 1 f), 21 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (E); 5-7, 28 Apr., S. of Beaumont, LG, JT; 1, 28 Apr., Biloxi, LG, JT.
- ORCHARD ORIOLE -- 7, 5 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT, MH; 2, 6 Apr., Archer I., NoH (A); 1 m, 9 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; 1 m, 13 Apr., Starkville, WW (A); 30, 19 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT.
- NORTHERN (BALTIMORE) ORIOLE -- 1 m, 27 Mar., Gulfport, JT (A); 20+, 15 Apr., Archer I., NoH, JH; 9 (5 m, 4 f), 26 Apr., West Ship I., SU; 1 m, 29 Apr., Vicksburg, HM.
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD -- 2, 27 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (D); 30, 31 Mar., Sheperd State Park, JT, LG; 6, 8 Apr., Sheperd State Park, JT, PD, JP (D).
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD -- 6, 1 Apr., Pearlinton, LG, JT (D).
- SCARLET TANAGER -- 1 f, 12 Apr., Ocean Springs, RoL (A); 3, 15 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT (A); 1 m, 20 Apr., Starkville, WW (A); 2, 23 Apr., 2, 6 May, Hattiesburg, LG.
- SUMMER TANAGER -- 1, 4 Apr., Gulfport, JT (A); 1 m, 6 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; 2, 13 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (A); 2, 25 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NoH (A); 1 f, 26 Apr., Vicksburg, HM.
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK -- 1, 15 Apr., near Vossburg, WW (A); 1 m, 20 Apr., Starkville, WW (A); 4, 20 Apr., Gulfport, JT (A); 6, 23 Apr., 9, 6 May, Hattiesburg, LG; 1 f, 5 May, Vicksburg, HM.
- BLUE GROSBEAK -- 7 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG; 1 m, 15 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, LG, JT (A); 5 m, 17 Apr., Gulfport, JT; 2, 18 Apr., near Longview, WW (A); 1 m, 3 May, Vicksburg, HM.
- INDIGO BUNTING -- 4, 5 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT, MH (A); 2, 15 Apr., near Vossburg, WW (A); heavy nocturnal migration (birds heard overhead), 24-25 Apr., Starkville, WW (N); 6, 24 Apr., Scott, NH; 1, 28 Apr., Homochitto NF, HM.
- PAINTED BUNTING -- 1 ad. m, 12 Apr., Ocean Springs, SU, RoL (A); 1 m, 19 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT; 1 m, 6 May, Vicksburg, HM; 1 imm. m, 30 May through June, Starkville, WW.
- DICKCISSEL -- 1 m, 9 Apr., Vicksburg, HM; 1 f, 28 Apr., PRM, LG, JT; 1 m, 29 Apr., PRM, LG, JT; 3, 30 Apr., Biloxi, PD, (D, R on coast).
- PURPLE FINCH -- 1 m, 9 Mar., Gulfport, JT; 1, 21 Mar., near Longview, WW (D).
- PINE SISKIN -- 1 banded, 13 Feb., Starkville, NH.
- AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -- 10+, 6 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NoH; 6, 19 Apr., Gulfport, JT (D).
- SAVANNAH SPARROW -- 30, 25 Feb., W. Ship I., DC, JJ; 3, 28 Apr., PRM, LG, JT (D); 1, 12 May, Yazoo NWR, GA (L).
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW -- 1, 29 Apr., PRM, LG, JT (U); 1, 8 May, PRM, PD (L); 4 (at least 3 m singing), 12 May, Yazoo NWR, MOS (R).
- HENSLÖW'S SPARROW -- 1, 28 Apr., PRM, JT, LG (R).
- VESPER SPARROW -- 1, 11 Dec., Noxubee NWR, JS, EP; 1, 14 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WW (D).

- BACHMAN'S SPARROW -- 2 m singing, 1 Apr., N. of Long Beach, LG, JT; 7, 10 May, Latimer, MHO, DK; 10 m, 20 May, De Soto NF, Stone & Harrison Cos., WW.
- DARK-EYED (SLATE-COLORED) JUNCO -- 2, 31 Mar., Noxubee NWR, WW (D).
- CHIPPING SPARROW -- several, 1 Apr., Hancock Co., LG, JT (D).
- FIELD SPARROW -- 1, 28 Apr., Hattiesburg, LG, JT (L).
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- 7, 25 Apr., Bellefontaine Beach, JT; 2, 26 Apr., Hattiesburg, JT, LG (D); 3, 1 May, Noxubee NWR, WW (D).
- FOX SPARROW -- 1 banded, 30 Apr., Starkville, NH.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW -- 1 banded, 23 - 27 Apr., Starkville, NH (R).
- SWAMP SPARROW -- 1, 9 Apr., Ocean Springs, JT, BB (U); 2, 29 Apr., PRM, LG, JT (D); 2, 29 Apr., PRM, WW (D); 1, 1 May, Noxubee NWR, WW (D).
- SONG SPARROW -- 1, 31 Mar., Bayou Cassotte, LG, JT, MN, GN (D); 10, 6 Apr., Archer I., Ark., NoH; 1, 20 Apr., Horn I., JJ, DC (L).

Key to Observers.-- AD=Annette Duchein, BB=Barbara Bodman, BMC=Bill McKee, CP=C.J. Perkins, CR=Cy Rhode, DC=C.Dwight Cooley, DG=Dan Guravich, DK=Doug Knapp, DS=Dave Spirtes, EG=Ernie Guyton, EP=E.W. Permenter, GE=G.E. Alexander, GG=Gordon Gunter, GH=Glen Hagve, GM=Gerry Morgan, GN=Georgeann Neubauer, GP=Gwen Perkins, HM=Hal Moore, JC=Jerry Case, JH=James C. Herbert, JJ=Jerome Jackson, JP=James S. Perkins, JR=Jack Reinhoehl, JS=James Sanders, JT=Judy Toups, KS=Kim Scipione, LC=Louis P. Cashman, Jr., LG=Larry Gates, MBH=Martha B. Hays, MH=Margaret Halstead, MHO=Malcom Hodges, MOS=Mississippi Ornithological Society members, MN=Mike Neubauer, MS=Mike Smith, NH=Nellie Hughes, NoH=Nona Herbert, PG=Peggy Gates, PD=Pete Donaldson, RoL=Roy Lowe, RI=Ren Lohofener, RR=R.P. Russell, SU=Steve Umland, TF=Terri Fairley, WT=William H. Turcotte, WW=Wayne Weber. Addenda: DH=Danny Hartley, TR=Tommy Roberts.

Key to new or unusual localities, check recent "Birds Around the State" columns for other localities.-- Airey=Harrison Co.; Bayou Cassotte=Jackson Co.; Beaumont=Perry Co.; Bethel=Harrison Co.; Cat I.=Harrison Co.; Deer I.=Jackson Co.; GCRL=Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Jackson Co.; Little Creek=Stone Co.; Logtown=Hancock Co.; Longview=Oktibbeha Co.; McHenry=Stone Co.; Merrill=George Co.; PRM=Pascagoula River Marsh, Jackson Co.; Pearlinton=Hancock Co.; Round I.=Jackson Co.; Sheperd State Park=Gautier, Jackson Co.; Vancleave=Jackson Co.; Vossburg=Jasper Co.

"BIRDS AROUND THE STATE" -- ERRATA

In the last installment of "Birds Around the State" (Mississippi Kite 8:48-62, 1978), the following records were cited with incorrect details or with some details missing. Many of these errors occurred as a result of inaccurate reporting by observers; please check the accuracy of your records before submitting them. The corrected records are as follows:

- SNOWY EGRET -- 5, 27 Aug. (not 26 Aug.), Noxubee NWR, CDC, WCW.
- CANADA GOOSE -- 3800, 31 Dec., Sardis Lake, Sardis Lake CBC (date omitted).
- MALLARD -- 1, 18 June, Dundee BBS route, WCW (date omitted).

- BLACK DUCK -- 1 m, 13 Apr., Noxubee NWR, WCW (observer omitted); last sighting, 2 on 17 June (not on 2 June as stated), Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, MH, BB (L).
- RING-NECKED DUCK -- 1, 27 Aug. (not 26 Aug.), Noxubee NWR, CDC, WCW (bird probably summering).
- SURF SCOTER -- 1 f, 1 Mar., Horn I., WCW (date omitted).
- BALD EAGLE -- 1 imm., 7 Dec. 1978 (not 1977), Pearl R. waterfowl refuge, WHT.
- DUNLIN -- 1, 30 Sept., Pascagoula R. marsh (not Bellefontaine Beach), JAT, LJG, WCW, GN (E).
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER -- 300, 12 Aug. (not 11 Aug.), Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, WCW (N).
- BLACK-NECKED STILT -- maximum spring count, 29 (not 31), 31 Mar., Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE -- 2 (1 m, 1 f), 10 May, Pascagoula R. marsh, JAT, AB, MH (date omitted).
- LAUGHING GULL -- 100 imm., spoil island off Petit Bois I., and 500 imm., spoil island near Pascagoula, 23 June, JAT, MBH, DG (localities and ages incorrectly cited).
- WHIP-POOR-WILL -- 1 f, 17 Jan., Horn I., WCW (this bird, originally reported as a CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW, was re-identified after careful comparison of field notes with specimens at LSU Museum of Zoology).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER -- 1, 21 Oct., Bellefontaine Beach, LJG, JAT, PD, JP; 1, 5 Oct. (not 21 Oct.), Biloxi, PD, JP, SPe (R).
- WATER PIPIT -- 4, 30 Sept., Biloxi (not Gulfport), PD (E).
- PAINTED BUNTING -- 1 m, 10 and 14 May, Bellefontaine Beach, JAT, MH, AB, LJG (observers omitted).
- PINE SISKIN -- 1 (not 3), 8 May, Gulfport, JAT (L).

In addition to the above, Bette Schardien's name was omitted from the list of observers. Her initials, however, are included in the species' accounts.

THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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