

Introduction

It has been thirty years since the publication of Birds and Birding on the Mississippi Coast by Toups and Jackson, 1987. Much of the information it presents is still valid (if you have a copy hang on to it, as it is very unlikely that it will ever be duplicated). But much has changed.

Birding Coastal Mississippi, by Toups, Bird and Peterson 2004, did contain a bar graph representation of monthly occurrences that is still basically valid and was the source of some of the information in this current list. But that work is essentially a site guide with very limited species information.

The first on-line source was begun by Stacy Peterson in the late 1990's. It attempted, through a monumental amount of research, to show the arrival and departure dates of every migratory species every year. This effort proved unsuccessful due to lack of data but much of the data gathered by Stacy, and many of his cogent comments, are, with his permission, incorporated here.

The goal of this checklist is to present detailed accounts of the status of the birds of the six coastal counties of Mississippi in a form that can be periodically monitored and updated

Hopefully this current version represents a distinct improvement in form and content over the previous attempts. If so, it is due in large part to the guidance and comment of Paul Buckley, Jason Hoeksema, Erik Johnson, Gene Knight, Paul Lehman, Van Remsen, Terry Schiefer, Nick Winstead, and Mark Woodrey

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FORMAT

Taxonomy and nomenclature

Taxonomy provisionally follows ebird usage as of January 2018.. It will be updated to follow the profound changes in the AOU Check-list, Seventh Edition, supplements 56, 57 and 58 when these changes are adopted by other standard listings (ebird, etc). Nomenclature follows current AOU usage.

Criteria for initial acceptance of a species

The Records Committee of the Mississippi Ornithological Society is considered the final authority. All species accepted by that organization as occurring in the six coastal counties are accorded full status. Nevertheless it is not always clear how some early sight reports were handled. Some of them seem lacking in critical data. Such reservations are noted in the accounts. *Indicates that to date we have only a sight record

Sources and criteria for acceptance of subsequent records

Any records published in journals such as *North American Birds* or *The Mississippi Kite* or accepted by ebird editors are deemed to have been already reviewed and accepted by competent authority. Some personal communications and unpublished records (including postings from forums such as MISSBIRD) have been accepted on a case by case basis.

Christmas Bird Count Data Though review has tightened up considerably in recent years, there are a number of highly unusual, occasionally startling, sightings in the earlier years of the local counts. These are noted in the species accounts.

USGS Breeding Bird Survey Data There are currently four active routes in our area:

Cybur 30.7939126/-89.7137542

Benndale 30.8158367/-88.7687399

Necaise 30.6793407/-89.5109799

Latimer 30.4987757/-88.7992689

Unless stated otherwise, data are from the six most recent years. Example:

“Cybur 6/6 12-20” should be read as “recorded all six years, count spread 12 to 20/year.

Other sources USM Migratory Bird Research Group and several others. A full list appears in the bibliography.

Sources of reference material

There is an astounding amount of information online. Some sites are excellent but the quality of others descends rapidly through the superficial to the inane. I have used several that I found to be first rate and that had material that was specifically pertinent to our purposes. But I doubt that I've even scratched the surface of useful sites. I would appreciate hearing about others.

User input

Unfortunately, a prominent feature of this list so far is the number of fuzzy generalizations. What are needed are specifics, and they must come from you, the observers.

Numbers: Listing record high counts is certainly useful, but how many individuals you normally see: within a given area; along a certain stretch of beach; within a period of time is even more so

Dates: We need not just the extremes. When does the bulk of the population of a summer resident arrive? Leave? Over what time span do the greatest number of common transient pass through both northbound and southbound? Peak in winter?

Breeding Data: How many singing male Turkey Vultures in your woodlot?

Documentation Photographs: We still do not have photo documentation of many species that have been reported from the coast. Photos of adult and nest or adult and young to establish proof of nesting is also needed for many species.

Documentation Specimens: You may find a road-kill or beach casualty of great interest. Here is what you do, courtesy of Nick Winstead, state ornithologist.

There are legalities involved. Certain state and federal permits are required to possess a protected species. Technically this is true even it is only a dead bird intended for delivery to an authorized institution. But I don't believe problems would ensue if this were your sole intent.

The Museum would be happy to take specimens, but we have to be selective in the ones we accept. Therefore if you collect a specimen please contact either Scott Peyton or me to determine if it is one we can use. If we can't use it we may be able to suggest other institutions that can. Store any specimen in a plastic bag in a freezer until it can be delivered. Be sure to include a note on collection location and date and the name of the collector.

Be careful when handling dead birds. Avoid any contact between exposed skin and the bird's body fluids. Wear gloves; wash hands and other exposed surfaces; protect yourself from mosquitoes.

Nick Winstead, Ornithologist, MS Dept of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks

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Documentation- Banded/Flagged Birds

Bryan White, Biological Field Technician for Mississippi Audubon Coastal Bird Stewardship Program has prepared for this List an excellent illustrated guide to interpreting, recording and reporting banded/flagged/marked water birds. Thanks to Janet Wright of MCAS it is available at. <https://bit.ly/2G0Lzov>

I urge everyone to download a copy.

Bottom Line

The success of this project will depend on the support and contributions of all of you. Please send all the records that you think pertinent, all the information you think useful and all the comment and criticism you feel warranted to me at:

nedrbo@gmail.com or Ned Boyajian 38 Wilmon Burge Road Carriere, MS 39426

[HOME](#)

WATERFOWL Anatidae

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna autumnalis

First coastal sighting of this recent invader.

Hancock Co. 23 April 2005 NM, JT, et al. (unpubl. rec.)

First documented report (photo, SM)

Seaman Road 13 July 2006 (*Survey Team*)

In 2007 there was a report from Seaman but this species was still considered rare and erratic well into 2008.

Current Status

Numerous in Jackson Co., mostly during the warmer months (where a regular breeder at several locations) and a regular visitor during that period to Harrison and Hancock There are now several sight records for Pearl River Co but none so far for George or Stone Counties. Winter records still few but seem to be increasing.

High count to date

206 Seaman Road 6 July 2017 (*Survey team*)

Breeding

Downy young photographed as late as 11 November 2013 at Seaman Road NB (*ebird*)

Documentation Photograph MBRC Archives

Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna bicolor

General status

As recently as 1987 this species was considered accidental. Currently it is an irregular visitor in small numbers. The majority of records have been singles clustered in April and May. Unfortunately the wetlands favored by this and many other species are now mostly on private or restricted access lands.

Earliest date

1 Vidalia, Harrison Co 4 March 1988 N, Atcheson (*fide JT, pers. comm. to JSP*).

First documentation (photo) 9 CataS 16 October 2004 NB, CE, JT (*e-bird.*)

Latest date Lakeshore 29 October 1978 JT, et al (*Toups and Jackson 1987*)

Highest Count 11 CataS 16 May 2014 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation- Photograph MBRC Archives

Comment

This species is not uncommon in private collections and caution needs to be exercised in that regard. On one occasion an individual bearing an owner's band frequented the Seaman Road site for a period of several weeks.

Snow Goose

Anser caerulescens

General Status

The continent-wide population explosion of this species is reflected in our area mainly in the size and duration of fall flights of transients from late October to the first days of December. Recorded on both CBC's in most years, usually in small numbers. Normally only small numbers overwinter. Morph percentages vary with population; dark birds may have a slight predominance in Mississippi.

Early/Late Dates

Jackson Co 2 October 1982 JT, et al. (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

Seaman Road 25 March 1997 (*Survey Team*)

"coast" 29 May 2 1938 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Summer

In 2016 a cripple was present at Diamondhead, Hancock Co from late March into June.

High Counts

Flocks estimated at a few hundred to a few thousand have been observed at Ansley on several occasions, usually in mid to late November. Apparently these are birds heading to wintering grounds in SW Louisiana.

90 Pascagoula 19 November 2017 BJ (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Comment

Interesting discussions of the environmental consequences of the explosive increase of this species can be found on-line at the *USFWS and USGS websites*

Ross's Goose

Anser rossii

General Status

Unrecorded prior to 1991, this increasing species now occurs in small numbers nearly annually. Most sightings are from mid November to early December among flocks of overhead transient Snow Geese or scattered as individuals on inland pasturelands.

Earliest (and first)

Hancock Co 2 November 1991. GK (*pers comm.*)

Latest

2 Diamondhead-19 May 2006 CE, SE photo. (*pers comm.*)

High Count

4 PRM 24 Feb 2004 GK (*pers comm.*)

Documentation- Photograph MBRC Archives

Greater White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons

General status

Formerly considered rare and irregular, now a regular fall transient, sometimes in considerable numbers. There are usually a scattering of singles or small flocks in the area through the winter and into early spring.

Early/Late Dates

Hancock Co 7 October 1986 CD, GM, JT (*Jackson and Hodges, 1986 MK 16-2*)

Heron Bay 15 October 2004 NB (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

Seaman Road 7 April 1993 CD, JT, et al. (*Survey Team*)

Graveline Beach 180 2 May 2015 J. Wright (*ebird*)

CBC Data (past ten years)

MSSH 6 of 10 counts, range 2 to 164

MSJC 5 of 10 counts, range 1 to 12

High Counts

Flocks passing through day and night, perhaps 3000 all told Ansley 21-23 October 2003 NB (unpubl. rec.)

250 Gulf Hills, Jackson Co 24 October 2017 P. Blank (*ebird*)

114 Hancock Co 2 January 2003 CB, SD (*Schiefer, 2004 MK 34-1*)

Documentation Specimen MMNS

***Brant**

Branta bernicla

One Record

East Ship Island 1 July 1978 injured bird capable of flight WW (*Weber, 1979 MK 9-1*)

Identified, and well described, by the observer as *B. b. hrota*

Documentation-Needed

Comment

Probably not particularly germane in MS, but there may be more than one species. So if you're lucky enough to find a Brant in MS, take lots of pictures. Then check the *oceanwanderers* website, *Birding June 2006 38:348-55* and maybe one of the more recent European guides for the characteristics your photos should have shown. Then go back and take more pictures.

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

General Status

Feral birds are now well established throughout the region. Birds that are probably "wild" are occasionally seen migrating high overhead, mostly in late fall and doubtless some winter. To date, there are no firm records of the recently split **Cackling Goose** *Branta hutchinsii*. I.D. is a bit tricky. There is good information on line at *Iowa Bird Life 76:127-135* and several other websites.

Typical feral bird reports

60-100 free flying birds in the Henleyfield area-NB (unpubl. rec.)

Three or four resident pairs that nest at Seaman Road.

Winter (Feral)

MSSH: average range, 5 to 100.

MSJC: average range, 10 to 275

Documentation- Surprisingly, Toups and Jackson do not cite a specimen. Many photos on file, (*ebird, etc*).

Turcotte and Watts mention introduction and captive breeding programs by state and federal organizations in northern MS. But the source of coastal feral flocks is unclear. I would appreciate any information in that regard

Tundra Swan

Cygnus columbianus

Three records:

4 Jourdan River Hancock Co 30 Dec 1978 R.Chapel (*Toups AB 33:510*)

Kiln 24 March 1987 D.Ruple (*Hodges1987, MK 17-2*)

Long Beach 8-11 December 2016 K. Hinkle Photo (*MBRC*)

There is also one anecdotal account

10 seen at Kiln early winter 1984 by an unnamed resident.

Documentation Photograph MBRC Archives

Comment

Careful documentation is critical, particularly in light of the recent increase of the

Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator* An interesting discussion on the pros and cons of reintroducing TRSW in the east can be found in *Birding 2002 34:4 338-343*

Wood Duck

Aix sponsa

General Status

A common permanent resident nesting in suitable habitat throughout. There is some influx of northern birds in winter which gather in flocks with the local birds in favored locales. In some winters concentrations at CataN have exceeded 1000.

Breeding

Greatest density is probably at CataN, 15 to 20 broods a year.

CBC Data

MSSH: usual range, 200-300; maximum, 1618 in 2002.

MSJC: usual range 20-30.

Documentation-Photo MSU

Blue-winged Teal

Anas discors

General Status

An abundant transient mid March-early May; mid August-late October and common winter resident. Numerous summer records but few verified breeding reports A freshwater species but occurs frequently in the sound, particularly during migration. It regularly migrates trans-gulf. (See migration account in *BNA*)

Early/Late Dates

4 PRM 12 August 1977 R. Russell, et al. (*Jackson and Weber MK 8-1*)

Seaman Road 19 May 1992 (*Survey Team*)

9 PRM 17 June 1979 JT, et al (*Cooley and Jackson MK 8-2*)

Breeding

Has nested sporadically. The now defunct PRM was probably the most frequent site

e.g., Ad female with 5 young 9 June 1979 JT (*Jackson MK 9-2*)

Also, Ad female with 4 downy young Seaman Road 17 June 1997 (*Survey Team*)

CBC Data

MSSH: usual range, 25 to 50, occasionally to 200

MSJC: usual range, 100 to 300

High Counts

Totals of over 2000 may occur in favored locales during migration, e.g. 2200 combined total for three locations in Hancock Co., (most were off-shore fly-bys) 22 April 2004 NB (unpubl rec.)

Documentation- Specimen –USM

Cinnamon Teal

Anas cyanoptera

First record

Bayou Cassotte, Jackson Co. 1 and 19 December 1979 LG, JT (*Jackson and Schardien MK 10-1*)

Subsequent reports

Subsequently there were four or five more reported, variously described as “non-breeding” or “eclipse” males. Not all of which were accepted by the MBRC.

adult males

Greenw I 23 October 2004 SD, DM (*Knight MK 35-1*)

CataS 20- 25 February 2005 well-marked adult male Cinnamon Teal x Blue-winged Teal hybrid. JB NB (*ebird.*)

Seaman Rd 12 January 2008 - 13 March 2008 AW, JW, SM, et al (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Rd 6 Dec 2008 JW, et al (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 5-12 November 2009 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 15 January 2015 SM (*MBRC photo*)

Seaman Road 31 January (*Survey Team*)

Triple Barrel 6 September 2017 (*ACBS Survey*)

Comment

A cautionary note courtesy Paul Lehman:

“Fall records complicated by presence of a bunch of eclipse Blue-wingeds with extensive ruddy "staining" to them. This color--whatever forms it--is a regular occurrence and could easily get unsuspecting birders reporting the birds as Cinnamons. I saw several such birds, for example, at Greenwood Island later the day we met”

Documentation- Photographs MBRC Archives

Northern Shoveler

Anas clypeata

General Status

A common to abundant winter visitor from mid October to mid April, mostly to fresh, or at least non-saline, waters. It is particularly fond of sewage ponds.

Early/Late Dates

5 PRM 19 August 1977 JT, WW, et al (*Weber and Jackson, MK 8-1*)

Seaman Road 13 May 1996 (*Survey Team*)

PRM 14 May 1979 EG, MH (*Jackson and Schardien, MK 9-1*)

Summer

About 20 records, e.g.

Male in flightless eclipse CataN 22 July 1989 NB (*ebird.*)

Seaman Road 19 June through 14 August 2008 (*Survey Team*)

CBC Data

MSSH: usual range, 50 to 100.

MSJC: usual range, 300 to 500.

High Counts

Normally the most common duck at the Seaman Road sewage lagoons, usually several hundred present in season Maxima:

106 18 December 2014. (*Survey Team*)

1400 26 February 2015. (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Photo-R. Hare-MSU

Gadwall

Anas strepera

General Status

A winter visitor in moderate numbers. Regular by early October and lingering well into April. Most numerous from early November to late March. Peak season counts of over 200 are not unusual at Seaman Road; 20-50 are more likely at any single location elsewhere

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 17 September 2004 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 17 September 2015 (*Survey Team*)

Wavelag 18 September 1990 MH, JT (*Schiefer MK 21-1*)

Seaman Road 23 September 1999 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 16 May 1997 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 19 May 2016 (*Survey Team*)

Summer

Three records All from. Seaman Road (*Survey Team*)

13 July - 2 August 2001

11 June - 5 September 2002

15-30 July 2015

CBC Data

MSSH: usual range, 200-300.

MSJC: usual range 100-200

High Counts

400 CataS 19 November 2014 NB (*ebird*)

458 Seaman Road 28 January 2016 (*Survey Team*)

537 Seaman Road 3 December 2015 (*Survey Team*)

890 Seaman Road December 2016(*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen USNM

***Eurasian Wigeon**

Anas penelope

One sight record:

PRM 16 December 1978 (*Gates 1979 Am Birds 33:508*)

Documentation needed.

Comment

Further sightings seem reasonable. Note that hybrids with the next species do occur. See Jiquet, *1999 Birding World Vol. 12*; Hamilton, *1998 Birding 28:309-312*.

American Wigeon

Anas americana

General Status

A winter visitor in small numbers. Regular by early October and lingering well into April. Most numerous from early November to late March.

Early/Late Dates

Clermont Harbor 16 September 1980 JT (*Jackson MK 11-1*)

PRM 8 May 1977 WW (*Weber and Jackson MK 7-2*)

Seaman Road 20 May 1998 (*Survey Team*)

CBC Data

MSSH: usual range, 10 to 25; occasionally 100+

MSJC: usual range, 2 to 6; occasionally 30 to 50.

High Counts

150 Jackson Co 15 March 1980. (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*) and

200+ Hancock Co 8 December 1981. (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*) are unusual.

1 or 2 to 20 is more typical.

Documentation- Photo-R.Hare-MSU

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

General Status

A mix of feral and free-flying but essentially domesticated birds of dubious ancestry are scattered throughout the region. Truly wild birds occur regularly from mid-October to early April in fairly small numbers. Nesting of the latter probably does not occur.

Early/Late Dates

Lyman Hatchery 29 September 1962 HH (*Gandy and Turcotte 1970*)

PRM 23 May 1979 WW (*Jackson and Schardien, MK 9-1*)

PRM 6 June 1977 WW (*Weber and Jackson, MK 7-2*)

CBC Data

MSSH: usual range, 200 to 300

MSJC: usual range, 50 to 70

It should be noted that CBC numbers invariably include a considerable number of feral birds.

Documentation- Specimen LSUMZ

American Black Duck

Anas rubripes

General Status

Earlier records are confused due to this species having been lumped with Mottled Duck for some years, but are still puzzling. There was a spate of records in the 1980's (six of

ten years on the MSJC but none since). A comment by *Toups and Jackson, 1987* is worth consideration. "We suspect that many Black Duck records are really of Mottled Ducks".

There is only one well documented recent record

2, Seaman Road 25 27 January- 15 February 2018 numerous photos (*Sewage Team*)

Documentation- Specimen LSUMZ

t

Mottled Duck

Anas fulvigula

General Status

A permanent resident, thinly but widely distributed throughout the region. Nests in both coastal and inland marshes.

CBC Data

MSSH: usual range, 50 to 300

MSJC: usual range, 10 to 50

High Counts

Normally not a flocking species, occurring mostly in pairs or small groups of 3 or 4. But late summer aggregations of adults and young may occur in favorable locations:

62 PRM 30 July 1977 WW, et al. (*Jackson, MK 7-2*)

162 Seaman Road 29 August 2013 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen –MMNS

Comment

For an interesting comment on the former practice of trappers annually burning marshlands and the impact of that practice on breeding habitat see *Hackney and Hackney, 1976 MK 6-1*

Northern Pintail

Anas acuta

General Status

An uncommon winter visitor to fresh water sites from mid October to late March. Typical counts, 3-4

Early/Late Dates

2 Seaman Road 12 August 1988 JT, et al (*Hodges MK 18-2*)

Seaman Road 26 May 1988 CC, GM (*Hodges MK 18-2*)

One summer record

CataN male present through entire eclipse cycle July 1 through 18 September 2004 JB, NB (*ebird*)

CBC Data

Usual range, three to ten. MSSH recorded 125 in 2002.

High Counts

18 Seaman Road 1 February 2002 (*Survey Team*)

44 CataS 6 February 2014 NB (*ebird*)

65 CataS 12 Feb 2005 NB (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

Documentation- Specimen USNM

Green-winged Teal

Anas crecca

General Status

A common winter visitor to fresh water sites from mid October to late March. Counts of 400-500 not unusual in favored locations during fall migration.

Maximum 961 6 January 2004 Seaman Road (*Survey Team*)

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 10 September 1994 CD et al (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

20 April 2017 Seaman Road (*Survey Team*)

Summer

2 PRM 8 May to 30 June 1977

PRM 19 August 1977 (probably one of the above) JT, WW et al. (*Weber and Jackson MK 7-2 and 8-1*)

PRM 9 16 June 1979 JT (*Jackson, 1979 MK 9-2*)

Seaman Road 26 July 1996 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 17-24 June 2010 (*Survey Team*)

CBC Data

MSSH: usual range, 300 to 500.

MSJC: usual range, 150-300

High Counts

730 Seaman Road 3 January 2008 (*Survey Team*)

916 Seaman Road 2 February 2015 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation Photo MSU

Canvasback

Aythya valisineria

General Status

An uncommon winter visitor from early November to late March. Seldom more than 3-4 per sighting. Mainland sightings are mostly from sewage lagoons Recorded on about 50 % of CBC's since 1974, usually less than 6-7 individuals/year... The observation by Toups and Jackson, 1987, that they "...form part of the rafts of bay ducks which often concentrate in the sound" has not been noted in recent years.

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 10 October 1989 CD, LJ (*Schiefer MK 20-1*)

2 Kiln 14 October 1989 MH, JT, et al. (*Schiefer MK 20-1*)

Ocean Springs 13 May 2014 MW (*missbird*)

Seaman Road 22 May 1992 fide, JT (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Singing River 28 May 2017 Photo LJ (*ebird*)

Summer

PRM June-July 1978 JT, et al (*Jackson MK 8-2*)

Seaman Road 1 August to 30 November 1992 CC, et al (*Schiefer MK 23-2*)

CBC Data

CBC maximum in recent years 24 MSSH 28 December, 1989

CBC maximum historical 80 "Pascagoula" 29 Dec 1962 (*MOS Newsletter Vol 8, 1963*)

High Counts

20 Seaman Road 24 November 2014 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation. Specimen USNM

Redhead

Aythya americana

General Status

A winter visitor from early November to early April. Most frequent and numerous well offshore but small numbers also occur on marshy fresh water ponds.

Early/Late Dates

Bayou Cassotte 11 October 1987 TS, et al. (*Hodges, MK 17-2*)

Seaman Road 14 May 1999 (*Survey Team*)

Summer

One continuously present 19 May through 6 October 2016 Seaman Road (*Survey Team*)

Biloxi Waterfront 19 June 2017 HC, JL Photo (*ebird*)

CBC Data

Reported on about 2/3 of CBCs. Normally 6 to 10 but occasionally 30 to 80.

High Counts Offshore

2500 Gr Bay 19 November 2010 JW (perhaps birds heading to wintering sites in s. TX)

500 Horn Island 16 January 1978 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

400-500 17 February 2010 NB, JW (*ebird*)

300 Horn Island 31 December 2012 D.Almquist (*ebird*)

High Counts Mainland

75 CataS 19 February 2006 NB (*ebird*)

100 Seaman Road 3 January 2015 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation Specimen MMNS

Ring-necked Duck

Aythya collaris

General Status

A common winter visitor mid October to late March. Partial to wooded ponds. Seems to be increasing. Winter population in the Kiln area averages 600-1000

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 16 April 1989 (*Survey Team*)

GreenIs 22 April, 2004 SD (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

Summer

Multiple records, all from Seaman Rd (*Survey Team*)

Typical are:

27 June 1994

10 June through early August, 2010

2 May 9 through June 27, 2013

16-23 June 2016

High counts

3000 CataN 6 February 2011 NB (*ebird*).

1120 Seaman Road 27 December 2012 (*Survey Team*)

CBC counts normally range from a few hundred to several hundred.

Documentation Specimen USNM

Greater Scaup

Aythya marila

General Status

On the mainland, a regular winter visitor in small numbers to the waterfront from early November to late April. Recent observations indicate it is decidedly more common offshore but precise data are few. ID. criteria separating this species from the next have changed over the years, adding to the difficulty of evaluating older records.

Early/Late Dates

Horn Island 16 October 1988 CDC (*Jackson and Cooley, MK 8-2*)

Gulfport 24 May 1940 (*Burleigh*)

Seaman Road 27 May 1994 (*Survey Team*)

GB N/N 27 May 2011 JW (*ebird*)

Summer

GreenIs 3 August 1995 TS (Schiefer, 28-1) could as well be an early fall arrival

Seaman Road 17 June 1996 (*Survey Team*)

GB N/N 26 June 2006 JW (*ebird*)

2 Seaman Road 16-30 June 2011 photo SM (*Survey Team*)

CBC Data

Recorded on about 2/3 of the CBC's. Counts normally range from 3 to 8, though a remarkable 600 on MSJC 1990 seems to have passed editorial muster.

High Counts

62 Bay St Louis 2 February 2010 NB (*ebird*)

100 West Ship Island 23 February 1979 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

200 GB N/N 18 February 2010 JW (*ebird*)

250 17 December 2013 (*MSSH*)

Documentation Specimen MMNS

Comment

Excellent tutelage on scaup ID courtesy of the late Jeff Wilson can be found at www.pbase.com/image/26212936

Lesser Scaup

Aythya affinis

General Status

Formerly abundant and still very common but seems to be declining. The largest mainland numbers occur along the sound shore but it is regular in small numbers well inland particularly during migration. Most numerous from mid October to early April but has been seen in every month of the year, with many summer records.

CBC Data

For many years CBC's normally tallied from several hundred to a few thousand with maxima of 5257 (MSSH, 1990) and 4235 (MSJC, 1981). But except for 2850 on MSSH 2013, since 2000, counts have been mostly in the low 200's.

High Counts

Two examples by *Toups and Jackson, 1987*: indicate former abundance

250,000 offshore 29 November 1984

A raft 20 ducks deep and 20 miles long (?) December 1984.

Some onshore counts:

6000 migrating west off Waveland 23 November 1989 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation Specimen MMNS

King Eider

Somateria spectabilis

A single record based on identification of a wing from a bird taken 17 December 1960 near Pascagoula by L.M. Brister. The details, as recounted by *Turcotte and Watts, 1999*, indicate a well preserved “chain of evidence”.

REGULARLY OCCURRING “SEA DUCKS”

The following information on status is oriented essentially toward mainland observation along the waterfront. The little data available suggest that the three species of scoters, and the Long-tailed Duck, are decidedly more common well offshore. All four have been occasionally reported on inland ponds and lagoons.

Surf Scoter

Melanitta perspicillata

General Status

Most common of the three scoters and the one most frequently seen from shore. Most sightings are from early November through March, peaking mid-November to mid-December. Occasional on inland ponds. There are sightings for every month of the year.

CBC Data

MSJC: recorded five times; 1 to 2, maximum 22 in 1989.

MSSH: singles recorded three times; maximum 18 in 1997

High Counts

148 Horn Island 3 April, 1985 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*).

Counts of ~200 several times GB N/N e.g. 16 April, 2009 JW (*ebird*) and 17 March 2010 NB, DM, JW (*ebird*)

Documentation-specimen UM

White-winged Scoter

Melanitta fusca

General Status

Least frequent of the scoters, most reports are from mid November to late February. Not seen every year. Seldom more than 1 or 2 per mainland sighting One inland sighting-November 8, 2008-Seaman Rd (*Survey Team*)

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Rd 25 October 1992 CC, JT, et al (*Schiefer, MK 23-2*)

GB N/N 16 April 2009 JW (*ebird*)

Biloxi 19 April 2015 K. Oeser (*ebird*)

Jackson Co. oil transects 28 May 2010 B. Schatt (*ebird*)

CBC Data

Singles, six times, both counts combined.

High Counts

13 off East Ship Island 14 February 1978 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

7 Gulfport 29 October 1985 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Documentation Photograph MSU

Black Scoter

Melanitta americana

General Status

Reported annually in recent years, most sightings are from mid November to late February, typical counts 1-3.

Early/Late Dates

Jackson Co 14 November 1987 CD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Bellebeach 15 April 1979 LG, JT (*Jackson and Schardien, MK 9-1*)

Washington St, Hancock Co 18 April 2017 JL (*ebird*)

Summer

Biloxi Waterfront 19 June 2017 HH, JL photo (*ebird*)

High Counts

50 East Ship Island 14-16 February 1978 WW (*ebird*)

17 Horn Island 15 February 1985 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

9 Gulfport 11 November 1986 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

25 Hancock Co 20 December 2011 (MSSH).

Documentation Photograph MSU

Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

General Status

An uncommon winter visitor from mid November to late March. Sightings peak in late winter. The majority of mainland sightings are of singles, with many from ponds and lagoons.

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 5 November 1993 GK, et al. (*Schieffer, MK 24-1*)

Gulfport 7 November 1989 JT, et al. (*Schiefer, MK 20-1*)

Singing River 27 April 2015 CD, JW, et al (*ACBS Survey*)

Deer Island 29 May 1937 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Horn Island 21 May 2014 MW, et al photo

(An entry for 30 May 1984 in the original listing by JSP should have read 30 March 1984. See *Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

Summer

Toups and Jackson, 1987, cite a "July 6" record with no further details.

CBC Data

Recorded four times on MSJC, counts ranged from two to five, and three times on MSSH, 1-2.

High Counts

20 Biloxi 15 February 1989 JT, et al. (*Schiefer, MK 20-1*)

There are many older sightings of 50 to 100+ offshore; most in late February and early March but none in recent years.

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Bufflehead

Bucephala albeola

General Status

A common winter visitor from late October to late March. Largest concentrations are in the sound but regular in small numbers throughout. May be increasing.

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 11 October 1996 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 6 May 1997 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 6 May 2017 (*Survey Team*)

Gulfport 15 May 2014 MW, et al (*ebird*)

Summer

Eclipse male CataN 22 July 2006 NB (*ebird*)

CBC Data

MSSH Counts of a few hundred are not unusual

MSJC normally records 50 to 150

High Counts

225 Hancock Waterfront 26 February 2014 OG (*ebird*)

250 GB N/N 13 December 2006 JW (*ebird*)

500 GB N/N 29 January 2011 JW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen USNM

Common Goldeneye

Bucephala clangula

General Status

An regular winter visitor to the sound in small numbers from mid November to early March. Most inland records are from Seaman Road. May be decreasing.

Early/Late Dates

Hancock Co 3 November 1990 CD (pers. comm. to JSP)

Cat Island 1 April 1962 LW, et al (*Gandy and Turcotte, 1970*)

Singing River 5 April 2015 BJ (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 6 April 2017 (*Survey Team*)

Petit Bois 8 April 2013 MW (*ebird*)

Waveland 11 May 1937 specimen (*Gandy and Turcotte, 1970*)

CBC Data

MSSH - Up to 1991 many years with 10-20 and as many as 60 in 1981. Since 2005 usual range, 0-4; never more than 13

MSJC 202 in 1981, 54 in 1982. Since 2005 usual range 0-4, never more than 7.

High Counts

35 Pascagoula River 1 January 1989 CD, JT (*Schiefer, MK 20-1*)

10 PRM 2 January 1992 JT, et al. (*Schiefer, MK 23-2*)

138 Singing River I. 1 February 2015 A.Holt, et al (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Hooded Merganser

Lophodytes cucullatus

General Status

A common winter visitor to sheltered salt water and wooded inland ponds. May be increasing in numbers and duration of stay. Breeding confirmed

Early/Late Dates

2 Seaman Road 16 September 2010 (*Survey Team*)

Hancock Co 13 October 1994 CD, et al (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

PRWMA 20 April 1999 CD, JPe (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Poplarville 25 April 2017 JL (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 30 May 1991 P.Sykes (*Schiefer, MS 22-2*)

Summer

Has bred sporadically at CataN since at least 2003 (Photo MBRC Archives) Should be watched for elsewhere, particularly at following locations where seen in summer.

ORWMA, 17 June 2006-NB (*ebird*)

Escatawpa River 17 July 2006 JW (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 10 August 2006 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 12-19 July 2007 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 2 July 2015 (*Survey Team*)

CBC Data

MSJC: Up to the mid 1990,s yearly totals fluctuated considerably from as few as 2 to 10 to occasionally 100+. More consistent since then, 30 to 138.

MSSH-1977-1986-seen on 6 of 10 counts-cumulative total 18

1987-1996-seen on 9 of 10 counts- cumulative total 212

1997-2006-seen on 10 of 10 counts- cumulative total 314

High Counts

217 CataS 1 February 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Photo MSU

Common Merganser

Mergus merganser

General Status

About 20 records up to 1992. Most were of single birds from mid November to early February with a peak in late December to mid January (perhaps correlated with hard freezes northward.) Not recorded again until 5 December 2012 when one was photographed at the Wash St. Pier, Bay St Louis (NB) where reported virtually daily (m.ob) until 1 January, 2013 (J. Pyron)

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 25-26 October 1992 CC, JT, et al. (*Schiefer, MK 23-1*)

Long Beach (?) April 1988 JT (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

High Counts

5 Hancock Co 23 December 1961 (*Gandy and Turcotte, 1970*)

Documentation-Photographs MBRC Archives

The range map in Turcotte and Watts, 1999, notes a MMNS specimen for Jackson Co. But NW informs me that:

“the only one I can find in the collection comes from Hinds County...Dickson's Pond, Jackson Brick Co. "Jackson Brick Co." may have been confused for Jackson County?

Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

General Status

A common winter visitor, most frequent from early November to mid March but recorded in every month of the year with summer reports of 1-3 in most years. Virtually all reports are from salt water though one was present at Seaman Road in 2010 on the remarkable date of 17 July (*No Am Birds vol 4, 2011*).

CBC Data

CBC numbers fluctuate considerably from year to year but in general fall into the 30 to 40 range

High Counts

120 Davis Bayou 25 February 2012 OG (*ebird*)

500 Jackson Co. 21 January 1983 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

General Status

A common winter visitor from late October through March. Recorded in every month, with numerous summer records. Has twice bred successfully. Found mostly on lagoons and ponds but flocks are sometimes on the Sound, particularly during migration.

Early/Late Dates

Wavelag 29 September 1990 TS (*Schiefer, MK 21-1*)

Seaman Road 30 May, 1991 P.Sykes (*Schiefer, MK 22-2*)

Breeding

2 records both in MBRC photo archives

2 adults, 3 young Seaman Road 15 August, 2002 DMc, et al. (*Knight, 2002 MK 33-1*)

1 female, 2 young Seaman Road 20 June 2013 (*Survey Team*)

There are a few other summer sightings of single birds.

CBC Data

MSSH shows a decline from counts in the high 100's in the 1980's (maximum of 2780 in 1984) to low hundreds in the 1990's to mostly 5 to 30 since 2000.

MSJC, conversely, shows a marked increase from mostly single digits to low 100's, perhaps coincident with increased coverage of the Seaman Roads cells.

High Counts

405 Seaman Road 2 December 1994 (*Survey Team*)

544 Seaman Road 17 December 1994 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation-Photo MSU

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NEW WORLD QUAIL, TURKEYS *Odontophoridae, Phasianidae*

Northern Bobwhite

Colinus virginianus

General Status

Formerly a common permanent resident throughout most of the region. Now greatly reduced and continuing to dwindle.

CBC Data

MSSH 1977-1986 10 of 10 years, range 5 to 60, cumulative total 194
1997-2006 7 of 10 years, range 0-25, cumulative total 89
2007-2015 4 of 9 years, range 0-8, cumulative total 19

MSJC 1977-1986 10 of 10 years, range 3 to 35, cumulative total 191
1997-2006 5 of 10 years, range 0-28, cumulative total 67
2007-2015 2 of 6 years, range 0-6, cumulative total 7

BBS Data:

Approximate 75% reduction, 2006 vs 2015.

In 1971, bobwhite was the fourth commonest bird recorded on sixteen BBS in the state. (*Turcotte, 1972 MK 2-1*) In 2009 it ranked 41st (BBS data)

Documentation – Specimen MMNS

Comment

This decline is range-wide. Much information is available on the web. Estimates of reduction vary from 65 % (*Southeastern Quail Study Group, 2006*) to 95% in some places (*Common Birds in Decline, National Audubon, 2007*)

The most generally expressed opinion is that habitat loss is the biggest factor and that predation and fire-ants are also significant.

Wild Turkey

Meleagris gallopavo

General Status

A common permanent resident breeding in wooded areas across the northern tier. South of I-10 occurs only as an occasional stray except in the Logtown area.

MSSH: Recorded on about ½ the counts. Usually a small flock of five to ten around Kiln.

MSJC: Recorded four times and only once in the past twenty years: a single bird in 2002.

Documentation-Photo MSU

Comment

In June 2016 I was advised (pers comm.) by a representative of MS Dept WLFP of a significant crash in WITU population in Pearl River Co. No data available.

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LOONS, GREBES *Gaviidae, Podicipedidae*

Red-throated Loon

Gavia stellata

General status

Rare and irregular in winter along the coast. About 25 sightings, mostly late November to late March. Only rarely is an individual present for more than a day or two. Most sightings are in mid-late December and again in mid-late March.

Early/Late Dates

Bay St Louis 25 November 1994 NB (*ebird*)

Petit Bois Island 25 March 1989 CC, MF, et al. (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Lakeshore 10 April 1986 JT, DaK (*Jackson, 1986 MK 16-1*)

Summer-One record

East Ship Island 14 June 1977 WW (*Weber, MK 8-1 1978a*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

***Pacific Loon**

Gavia pacifica

Five sight records.

Davis Bayou 15 March 1980.LG, et al. (*Imhof 1980, Am Birds 34 785-787*)

West Pascagoula River 21 December 1980.-RC (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-2*)

Gulfport 20 January 2002 SD (*Knight, 2002 MK 33-1*)

Bay St Louis 17 January 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Off Horn Island 16 April 2011 breeding plumage JW (*ebird*)

Documentation - needed

Comment

The first two observations were made prior to the 1987 **Arctic/Pacific Loon** split. They were reported as **Arctic Loon** *Gavia arctica* but have here been arbitrarily assigned to *pacifica*. Theoretically there is a remote possibility that either might actually have been *arctica*. (per PAB, *arctica* is unknown from East Coast, closest records are from CO).

Common Loon

Gavia immer

General Status

A regular winter visitor along the coast and occasionally on inland waters. It is most abundant from early October to early April but has been seen in every month. Off-season sightings are most frequent well off-shore or around the islands. In spring, overhead migrants are sometimes seen flying directly inland, mostly singles or small groups

Winter

Mid-winter counts can vary considerably day to day. 3-5 per waterfront mile is about the norm (MSSH averages) but concentrations of 50-100 may occur, mostly during migration or when weather is bad offshore.

High Counts

174 Harrison Co. waterfront 1 January, 2003 SD (*Schiefer, 2004 MK 34-1*)

178 in about three hours at Heron Bay 10 November 2004. Moving from ENE to ESE against a strong headwind. Perhaps Mississippi Valley migrants dispersing seaward NB (*ebird*)

~300 feeding flock pass between Ship and Cat Islands -25 February 2011 (*Paul Spitzer*)

Documentation-Specimen: MSU

Comment

Dr Spitzer has done numerous COLO studies, including some here in MS. His efforts warrant our support. Check out *Center for Circumpolar Studies* and other sites for examples of his work.

Pied-billed Grebe

Podilymbus podiceps

General status

Permanent resident. Widespread and common in winter, but quite scarce and localized as a breeding species.

Early/Late Dates

Non-breeders have appeared as early as early September and remained as late as late May.

Breeding

About eight pairs nest regularly at CataN and 1-2 erratically at CataS and Seaman Road. Uncertain elsewhere. Reported as nesting in the Pascagoula River marshes in 1983 (JT) but none found there in extensive surveys 2011 JW, et al (*pers. comm., JW*)

CBC Data

MSSH: Normally 30 to 50, but over 125 on several occasions

MSJC: 50 to 80.

High Counts

45 Wavlag 24 October 2014 C. Thomas (*ebird*)

64 Big Point Cooling Ponds 17 February 2012 C. Kelley (*ebird*)

84 Big Point Cooling Ponds 15 January 2012 C. Kelley (*ebird*)

Documentation Specimen USNM

Horned Grebe

Podiceps auritus

General Status

A common to abundant winter visitor to the sound from early November to late March. Relatively few in fresh water, mostly at Seaman Road in fall (max there 5, photographed on 3 December 2009 SM). Has been recorded in every month. Most summer records are singles well off shore or around the islands but one was present at Seaman Road from 23 June through 15 Sept 2011 (*Survey Team*)

Early/Late Dates

Undoubted first arrivals (rather than summering birds) have occurred at Seaman Road as early as 10 September 1997 (*Survey Team*)

CBC Data

Tallies vary from lows of 15 to 25 to highs of 100 to 250. Usual range 20 to 60.

High Counts

237-Harrison Co. waterfront 1 January 2003 SD (*Schiefer, 2004 MK 34-1*)

343-Harrison Co. waterfront 29 February 2004 SD (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

300-350 Hancock Co. waterfront 1 December 2006 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen LSUMZ

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

Though recorded on the coast only four times to date, there are numerous upstate records and further occurrences here seem reasonable.

Broadwater Mid December 1983 R Hare-photographed. (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

PRM 8 December 1991 R. Reid, et al.-photographed (*Schiefer, 1992 MK 22-2*)

Singing River Island 5 May 1996 CD, JT (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Petit Bois Island 1 February 1997 CB, JT, et al. (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Documentation- Photograph (Hare)

Eared Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

General Status

An uncommon winter visitor from early September to early May. Formerly regular at Seaman Road and secondarily at Wavelag but now somewhat erratic everywhere. In general, prefers more sheltered waters than Horned Grebe and is not often found in the open Sound.

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 12 August 1998 JT (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Seaman Road 16 May 1997 (*Survey team*)

Seaman Road 17 May 1995 (*Survey team*)

Numbers

Through 2007 Counts of 8 to 15 were typical at Seaman Road with a max. 35-42 14 October-8 December 1994.

Currently 1 or 2/sighting are more the norm there and erratically elsewhere.

Documentation Specimen MMNS

***Aechmophorus* (Western/Clark's Grebe)**

Though birds of this genus (only Western to date) have been reported several times in north MS there have been no coastal records to date. One seems due. Distinguishing the two in winter can be tricky, even when direct comparison is possible. If you find one and don't have a camera, buy, rent or steal one.

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[FLAMINGOS] SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS *Procellariidae, Hydrobatidae*

Flamingos

Following the passage of Hurricane *Gustav*, 30-31 August 2008, an undetermined number of flamingos of undetermined origin appeared on the MS coast. There were at least two American Flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber* for certain at Biloxi (photo-SM) and anecdotal accounts of flocks of three to five elsewhere. One lingered at Waveland until around 8 or 9 September and was seen and photographed by many observers until it was killed, apparently by do-gooders attempting to "save" it. USFWS had the specimen as evidence for a while but did not prosecute. It is now at MMNS. It was the only sighting submitted for consideration to the MSBRC who ruled to be of undetermined provenance. . There have been a few anecdotal accounts since of dubious validity.

Cory's Shearwater

Calonectris diomedea

One record

Picked up alive in Ocean Spring on 2 September 2012 following landfall of Hurricane *Isaac* on 28 August. Died in rehab.

Documentation – Specimen MMNS

Great Shearwater

Ardenna gravis

Two records

Picked up alive in Jackson Co. on 4 September 2012 following landfall of Hurricane *Isaac* on 28 August. One died in rehab, the second was released on 7 September 2012...

Documentation – Specimen MMNS

Comment

Birding Coastal Mississippi (Toups, Bird and Peterson, 2004 has three anecdotal references

December 2001 and July 1992 off Hancock Co

One retrieved from either Mississippi or Alabama waters, and photographed at an unspecified rehab station on an unknown date.

***Sooty Shearwater**

Puffinus griseus

Three sight records.

2 September 1985 Ocean Springs MH (*Hodges, 1986 MK 16-2*)

27 December 1988 Waveland JT (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

22 March 1989 Long Beach CC, GM (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Documentation -Needed

Audubon's Shearwater

Puffinus lherminieri

Two documented records

Carcass photographed on Horn Island 2 September 2012 following landfall of Hurricane *Isaac* on 28 August. L. Jacobsen.

Carcass photographed on Deer Island 3 August 2016 L. Deets (*MBRC*).

There are two sight records.

Long Beach Harbor 9 August 1988 MH, TS, JT (*Toups, et al. 1989 MK 19-1*)

Pascagoula Beach 3 September 2011 following T.S *Lee-JW (ebird)*

Documentation – **Photograph** MBRC Archives

Comment

Distinguishing **Audubon's** in the field from the rather unlikely **Manx** and the very unlikely **Little Shearwater** is a challenging task

***Wilson's Storm-Petrel**

Oceanites oceanicus

Two sight records.

15 August, 1985 Gulfport DaK

29 October, 1985 Gulfport MH, JT

In addition *Toups and Jackson, 1987* note in passing a reference in an 1854 state geological publication

Documentation needed

Comment

Both 1985 observations are described by *King, Hodges and Toups in MK 15-2*. A close reading of these accounts does not seem to eliminate either **Band-rumped** or **Leach's Storm-Petrels**

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel

Oceanodroma castro

One Record

Picked up alive in Jackson Co. on 30 August 2012 following landfall of Hurricane *Isaac* on 28 August. Died in rehab.

Documentation –Specimen MMNS

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STORKS, FRIGATEBIRDS, BOOBIES *Ciconidae, Fregatidae, Sulidae*

Wood Stork

Mycteria americana

General Status

An uncommon late summer and fall visitor. Most sightings are from the Pascagoula basin, and secondarily, southwest Hancock Co. It is least likely on the immediate coast. Appears to be arriving earlier in recent years. Some recent claims of nesting activity have not been substantiated.

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 19 May 2016 (*Survey Team*)

Jackson Co 6 June 2013 L. Dees (*pers. comm.*)

Hancock Co 18 June 1976 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Hancock Co 8 December 1984 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

High Counts

25 Hancock Co 18 June 1976 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

20 PRWMA 26 June 2011 JW (*ebird*)

40 Seaman Road 30 June 2011 (*Survey Team*)

12 Pearl River Co 30 September 2017 JL (*ebird*)

10 Bendale Jackson Co 2 October 1999. CD, DMc, et al (*Peterson, 2001 MK 31-1*)

Documentation- Photographs (MBRC Archives)

Comment

Some interesting material by Bryan and Jeske on the source of Mississippi birds was posted to *LABIRD* on 3 October 2003 by Michot. Birds from Florida have been tracked to East MS, birds from Mexico to west MS but the inference seems to be that birds from either source could occur anywhere.

Magnificent Frigatebird

Fregata magnificens.

General Status

A non-breeding visitor most frequent from mid April through early October but has been recorded in every month. Most numerous well off-shore. Frequency on the mainland normally decreases notably from east to west. However during tropical cyclones large numbers may appear anywhere.

High Counts

160 Hancock Co. 3 October, 2002 Hurricane *Lili* NB

200 Hancock Co. 13 September 2008 M. Mehaffey (*ebird*)

275-July 25, 1979-Harrison and Jackson Cos. (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

300+ photographed -September 3, 2011 - St Louis Bay-T.S. Lee SE (photo MBRC)

500-October 7, 1936-Deer Island (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Documentation Specimen USNM

***Masked Booby**

Sula dactylatra

General Status

There are seven records to date from early July to late September. There are numerous records for the north Gulf of Mexico and further sightings here seem likely.

Imm West Ship I 19 September 1978 D Spirtes (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

5 sub-adults Biloxi 27 September 1978 GM, JT (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Imm. Horn I 6 July 1979 DC, JJ. (*Jackson and Cooley, 1979 MK 9-2*)

Imm. West Ship I 23 September 1986 R Rummel (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

1 ad, 2 imm Bellebeach 19 August 1990 TS (*Schiefer, 1991 MK 21-1*)

West Ship I 3 July 2003 Michael Harley (*fide, B. Sullivan e-bird*)

Off Sand Island 23 June 2004 SD (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

Documentation-Needed

Brown Booby

Sula leucogaster

Three Records

Two were injured birds that subsequently expired.

W Ship I 30 August 2013 photograph T Stoia, J. Sloane

W Ship I 17-19 April 2015 photos OG (*ebird*)

Sand Island 27 May 2017 photo LJ (*ebird*)

Documentation Specimen MMNS

Northern Gannet

Morus bassanus

General Status

Fairly common from mid October to mid April with scattered sightings through the rest of the year. It is most numerous off-shore. Mainland sightings are most frequent during peaks of migration (November, March) and decrease notably east to west...

CBC Data

Recorded only nine times on MSSH and four times on MSJC. Counts ranged from one to twenty

High Counts

100 East Ship I 19 January 2013 B. Dellinger (*ebird*)

113 GB N/N 4 April 2006 JW (*ebird*)

150 Harrison and Hancock Beaches 20-24 March 1989 CD, JT, et al. (*Schiefer, 1991 MK 20-1*). This is an exceptionally high mainland count. Norm is more like 15-30.

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

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CORMORANTS, ANHINGAS, PELICANS *Phalacrocoracidae- Pelecanidae*

Neotropic Cormorant

Phalacrocorax brasilianus

Four reports to date. This species now breeds regularly in northern MS so future coast sightings seem likely.

Bellebeach 4 August, 1979 MH, JT photographed (*Toups and Hodges, 1980 MK 10-1*)

Bellebeach 20 December 1980 TG, et al (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

Seaman Road 1 September-1 October 2015 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 31 March-5 May 2016 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Photograph MBRC

Double-crested Cormorant

Phalacrothorax auritus

General Status

A non-breeding resident. It is most abundant from mid September to mid May but is found regularly year round. Occurs in greatest numbers on the immediate coast.

Though the notable increase of this species in recent years in No Am. has not resulted in any significant expansion of its breeding range (see *BNA*) it has resulted in a significant increase in wintering and non-breeding summer birds here.

CBC Data

MSJC: Average counts have increased from 20 to 100+ through the early 1990's to 300 to 600 in recent years.

High Counts

250 Crossroads Park, Pearl River Co 13 April 2007 NB (*ebird*)

400 MS Sound 14 March 2015 DR (*ebird*)

400 Singing River I 24 January 2013 NB, CE (*ebird*).

700 D'Iberville 1-6 December 2004 CE (*ebird*).

1000+ Harrison Co 16 October, 1981 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

2500 migrants in about two hours Hancock Co. 7 November 2003 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Great Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

General Status

There are nine records of this casual winter visitor from scattered points along the waterfront. The North American population is usually a salt-water species. It increased slowly until the mid 1990's then stabilized (*BNA*).

Bellebeach 1 November 1978 LG, JT (*Jackson and Cooley, MK 8-2*)

Biloxi 10 April 1984 JT (*Hodges and Jackson, MK 14-2*)

Bellebeach 8-9 September 1984 Jim Spence, et al. (*Jackson, MK 14-2*)

E. Pascagoula River 22 February 1986 JJ (*Jackson, MK 16-1*)

MSSH 18 December 1985

Gulfport 24 April 1987 CD, GM, JT (*Hodges MK 17-2*)

Horn Island 21 November 1994 CD (*pers. Comm. To JSP*)

Documentation-Photograph (Jackson, 1986)

Comment

It should be noted that one experienced observer who was active during the years of these sightings has expressed doubt as to the validity of the ID criteria used in some identifications. There are a few accepted records from AL but none from LA.

Anhinga

Anhinga anhinga

General Status

A permanent resident mostly confined to certain fresh water swamps in the breeding season but occurring in a wider variety of habitats at other times. Nesting locales include Big Point Cooling Ponds, Jackson Co., private lands in Hancock Co. and ORWMA and BCNWR in Pearl River Co. Has shown a marked increase in winter in recent years, particularly in Hancock Co...

Breeding

16 adults and downy young Big Point 31 July 1989 MH, JT (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

33 Big Point. 7 December 1984 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

(The big Point population has much decreased in recent years *fide*, CD)

CBC Data

MSSH Up to 2007 had been recorded on only about 1/3 of the counts, normally 1-3 /sighting. Since then, has been recorded every year with counts as high as 27.

High Counts

13 PRWMA 4 August 2014 L.Dees (*ebird*)

19 Elliot Slough, Pearl River Co. 9 April 2014 C. Riehl, et al (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen USM

American White Pelican

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos

General Status

Formerly considered rather uncommon, the White Pelican has increased markedly in recent years. It is most numerous from mid October to early May but singles and small flocks are fairly frequent through the summer. They are generally confined to sheltered salt water though fresh water ponds occasionally attract singles and small flocks

Numbers

Counts of 300-500 are occasional through the winter on the immediate coast.

Typical migrant flocks inland: 14 overhead at Henleyfield, Pearl River Co 15 November 2006 NB (*ebird*) 38 Anchor Lake, Pearl River Co 12 March 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Photograph MSU

Brown Pelican

Pelecanus occidentalis

General Status

Virtually wiped out on the Gulf Coast in the 60's and 70's, and still considered a good find even as recently as the mid 1980's, the Brown Pelican has made a spectacular comeback. It is now a common to abundant year round non-breeding resident. Typical CBC counts since 1995: MSJC 150-400; MSSH, 200-300.

High Counts

560 Singing River 14 September 2014 (*ACBS*)

810+ Horn Island 24 October, 2004 SD, DMc (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

900-1000 Graveline Beach 6 August 2016 NB (*ebird*)

1345-1383 Round Island mid-September 2017 (*ACBS*)

2220 Round Island 5 September 2017 (ACBS)

Documentation- Specimen USNM

Comment

Some contemporary commentary on the near extirpation in the 1960's can be found in *MOS Newsletter Vol 10, 1965*

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HERONS, IBISES *Ardeidae.Threskiornithidae*

American Bittern

Botaurus lentiginosus

General Status

A regular winter visitor in small numbers from late September to mid April but secretive and hard to find. E.g., though doubtless present ever year it has been recorded on slightly less than half the 70 plus CBCs taken to date). Most wintering birds are found in fresh water locations but it also occurs in salt marsh, at least during migration.

Early/Late Dates

Hancock Co 14 August 1984 CC, et al. (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*).

Deer Island 26 April 1940 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

PRM 7 May 1988 TS (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Davis Bayou 18 May 1985 J Sinclair (*ebird*)

Summer

24 July 1960-Bayou Caddy-SC (*Gandy and Turcotte, 1970*).

Winter

Normally one or two per locale per day but occasionally as many as five or six .in favored locales like Seaman Road Lagoons.

Documentation- Specimen-USM

Least Bittern

Ixobrychus exilis

General Status

A fairly common summer resident from early April to mid September with scattered reports into late December. Nests in both fresh and salt marsh.

Early/Late Dates

Waveland 10 March 2005 NB (*ebird*)

Deer Island 13 March 1942 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Lakeshore 23 October 1992 TS (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

Hancock Co 12 November 1989 JT (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Breeding Season (individuals)

2 Horn Island 7 June 2000 CD, et al. (*Schiefer, 2001 MK 31-2*)

Average of 5 to 8 in about 4 miles of waterway Ansley 1988-2005, NB (*unpubl. data*)

2 to 6 West Pascagoula River June, July, 2000-CD (*Schiefer, 2001 MK 31-2*)

27 Gautier City Park 6 June 2012 JW (*ebird*)

12-22 annually 2011-2014 PRMCP JW, MW (*ebird*)

Winter

Seaman Road 16 December, 1995 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 11 December, 2003 (*Survey Team*)
MSSH 25 December, 1990
MSSH 31 December, 1979

Documentation- Specimen-MSU

Great Blue Heron

Ardea herodias

General Status

A fairly common permanent resident, probably some influx in winter.

There is one record of the white morph Bay St Louis 4 July, 1945 (*E.R. Green, 1946 Auk 63:104*).

Breeding Mainland

Mostly scattered single pairs, but a few colonies:

Greenwood I. 17 birds setting up a rookery on an oil rig in for repair 9 February 2018 (*ACBS*)

Breeding Islands

A combined total of 62-70 nests on Round, Horn and East Ship Islands-14 April, 1979
DC, JJ (Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK9-1)

18 nests Round Island 29 March 1987 CD, TS, JT (*Hodges, 197 MK 17-2*)

Mainland

40 nests Gautier City Park 1 March 2008-MW (*ebird*)

“several pairs” Mary Walker Bayou, Jackson Co 7 March 2009 JW (*ebird*)

CBC Data

Both normally record from 30 to 60 every year

High Counts

81 Seaman Road 15 January 2014 (*Survey Team*)

214 Seaman Road 25 August 2011 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen-USNM

Great Egret

Ardea alba

General Status

A common permanent resident throughout.

Numbers

Flocks of up to 80-100 are not unusual at concentrated food sources.

CBC Data

Both usually total 200 to 300/year.

High Counts

125 CataS 1 March 2011 (*ebird*)

130 PRWMA 16 December 1995 LJ (*ebird*)

165-195 Seaman Road 28 July-4 August 2005 (*Survey Team*)

A post-breeding roost at Heron Bay (the site was destroyed by Hurricane *Katrina*) normally had about 500 birds from late summer to early spring.

Documentation- Specimen-USNM

Snowy Egret

Egretta thula

General Status

A common permanent resident throughout. As with the preceding species, large flocks can occur at concentrated food sources.

Breeding

A few bred, at least formerly, on the barrier islands (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*) and (7 to 10 pairs) in a heronry of Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons in Pearl River Co. a few miles north of Picayune. NB (*ebird*)

CBC Data

Both usually total 200 to 300/year.

High Counts

107 Seaman Road 7 September 2017 (*Survey Team*)

139 Seaman Road 24 August 2017 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen-USNM

Little Blue Heron

Egretta caerulea

General Status

A common permanent resident. Essentially an inland species, not unusual in salt marsh but seldom along the Sound shore.

Breeding

First Record 10 nests Harrison Co 1986 MH, JT (*Toups and Hodges, 1986 MK 16-2*)

Until 2013 about 80 to 100 pairs nest in a mixed colony in Pearl River Co.

Winter

Concentrations up 200 normal in fall but seem to decline in winter. both CBC's have recorded 200+ on occasion, the norm is more in the 40 to 60 range.

High Counts

308 Seaman Road 14 August 2014 (*Survey Team*)

325 Seaman Road 28 July 2005 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen-LSUMZ

Tricolored Heron

Egretta tricolor

General Status

A fairly common permanent resident of the salt marsh. It occurs regularly along the Sound shore and more irregularly in fresh water habitat. Seldom in large numbers but a few always seem to be present everywhere in suitable habitat.

Breeding

Formerly bred in considerable numbers on Petit Bois Island (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*). Current breeding status in the Region is uncertain.

CBC Data

MSSH: Though counts fluctuated considerably over the years, in the late 1980's and early 1990's there were many tallies in the low hundreds. In recent years they are only in the 10 to 15 range.

MSJC: Fairly consistently in the 20 to 40 range

High Counts

54 GB N/N 6 March 2006 JW (*ebird*)
60 GB N/N 19 March 2010 JW (*ebird*)
Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Reddish Egret

Egretta rufescens

General Status

Regular year-round in small numbers on the barrier islands where a few pairs breed. Historically a regular visitor to mainland beaches from July through November and sporadically in other months. Mainland sightings virtually ceased for a few years following Hurricane *Katrina* in 2005 but occurrences now seem back to normal.

CBC Data

Recorded eleven times on MSSH and six times on MSJC; one or two/count.

High Counts

10 Hancock Beaches September 14 2008 following Hurricane *Ike* NB (Schiefer, 2001 MK 39-2)

12 on Horn Island-July 3, 2000-CD, LE (*Schiefer, 2001 MK 31-2*)

17 (including 2 white morphs) Hancock Beaches 17 September 2002 following Hurricane *Isadore* NB (*ebird*)

33 Barrier Islands 4 August 2004 SD, GK, DMc (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Comment

The white morph, which represents only 2 to 7% of the North Gulf Coast population, has been seen occasionally on the islands and casually on the mainland. **XXXXXXXXXX**

Cattle Egret

Bubuclus ibis

General Status

A common resident, found year round but much less common in winter, particularly in inland areas. Regularly associates with other herons but as often found in large mono-specific flocks in live-stock pastures, etc. Not regular along the waterfront though migrant flocks are sometimes seen passing by over the Sound.

Breeding

First record was a nest on Petit Bois 1966 (*Portnoy, fide Toups and Jackson, 1987*).

400+ pairs Wiggins 11 July 1978 WW (*ebird*)

1500 pairs Harrison Co (?) July 1986 MH, JT (*Toups and Hodges, 1986 MK 16-2*)

Approximately 185 (*2006-NW-pers com*) to 250 pairs (*2007-NB-unpubl.rec*) nest in a heronry in Pearl River Co. (Currently abandoned)

CBC Data

Found on about half MSSH and one-third MSJC. Counts normally range from 2 to 30

High Counts

450 Seaman Road 28 July 1999 (*Survey Team*)

650 CataS 20 August 2006 NB (*ebird*)

1200 Wiggins 11 July 1978 WW (*ebird*)

1700 in thirty-five miles Pearl River Co 28 July 2007 NB (*unpubl. rec.*)

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Green Heron

Butorides virescens

General Status

There are records for every month of the year but much more numerous and widespread from late March to mid October. Nesting pairs are widespread through a variety of marsh habitat. Wintering birds occur primarily in sheltered spots at the salt marsh edge.

Early/Late Dates (Presumed non-wintering birds)

Bellebeach 3 March 1983 JT, et al (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)

Spence's Woods 8 March 2014 OG (*ebird*)

PRM 23 October 1994 CD, et al (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

CBC Data

In 30 years has been recorded 11 times on MSJC and six times on MSSH. Never more than 1 to 3/year.

High Counts

28 Seaman Road 25 July 2000 (*Survey Team*)

31 Seaman Road 10 August 2000 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

General Status

A rather uncommon permanent resident. It is mostly confined to the coastal marshes, though seen regularly at Seaman Road.

Breeding

A total of 20-25 pairs nested in three different sites in the Ansley marshes prior to Hurricane *Katrina*. One site is now abandoned; status of the other two is unknown-NB (unpubl. rec.). No definite information from elsewhere.

CBC Data

MSSH: Recorded on only twelve counts, numbers ranged from one to twelve.

MSJC: Recorded most years, normal range, 10 to 30.

High Counts

20 GB N/N 14 August 2008 MW (*ebird*)

25 East Pascagoula River 24 January 1985 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

37 Ansley post-breeding roost August-December 2004 NB (*unpubl. rec.*)

Documentation- Specimen-MSU

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Nyctanassa violacea

General Status

Has been found in every month but is essentially an uncommon summer resident and common migrant regularly present from March through September and occurring only casually in winter. Sometimes numerous in post-breeding period (July-October) along the waterfront.

Breeding

Nests Primarily in fresh water swamps of the Pearl and Pascagoula bottoms in scattered pairs or small colonies, e.g. 5-6 pairs in the Horseshoe Lake area of ORWMA.

Prior to Hurricane *Katrina* a few pairs nested with BCNH at the mouth of the Pipeline Canal, Ansley Marsh. Current status there unknown.

CBC Data

30 years MSJC, ten times; MSSH, 4 times. 1-2 individuals/sighting

High Counts

40 imm PRM 29 July 1978 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

40 imm Graveline Beach 6 August 2016 NB (*ebird*)

76 (3 ad., 73 imm.) Bayou Cassotte 28 July 1987 JT, et al (*Hodges, 1987 MK17-2*)

300-March 16-unspecified year and location-JT (*pers. comm. to SJP*)

Documentation- Specimen-LSUMZ

White Ibis

Eudocimus albus

General Status

Though still most abundant from late summer to late fall, the White Ibis has increased notably in recent years and is now reasonably common year round.

Breeding

A recently established colony in Pearl River Co. has about 150 pairs. NB (*unpubl. rec.*)

CBC Data

Counts vary considerably from two or three to several hundred, but in general seem to be increasing.

High Counts

410 Seaman Road 12 August 2004 (*Survey Team*)

550 Waveland 22 July 2006 NB (*ebird*)

600 Seaman Road 5 April 2007 (*Sewage Team*)

1200 Harrison Co 5 March, 1961. (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Documentation- Specimen-USNM

PLEGADIS

Sightings of dark ibises have increased markedly in recent years. They are now found regularly in small numbers the year round, allowing more opportunities for careful identification. The conclusion seems to be pretty much that expressed by *Toups and Jackson* twenty-five years ago

“...one seems as likely as the other to occur in Mississippi”

Following is a sample of typical sightings for each species. To date there has been no evidence of breeding.

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

1 Kiln 5 November 1987 JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

3 Seaman Road 10 August 1995- CD, et al (*Survey Team*)

1 Seaman Road 1 February 1999 CD, et al. (*Peterson, 2001 MK 31-1*)

6 Wavelag 22-29 October 2000 DB, JB, et al. (*Knight, 2001 MK 31-2*)

2 Greenw I 22 April 2001 MSc, TS (*Knight, 2002 MK 32-1*)

13 CataS 15 October 2004 JB, NB (*unpubl. rec.*)

1 MSJC 18 December 2004
9 CataS 24 October 2006 NB (*unpubl. rec.*)
20 Seaman Road 11 August 2005 (*Survey Team*)
Documentation- Specimen, *fide* Gandy & Troups, 1970

White-faced Ibis

Plegadis chihi

62 MSJC 19 December 1981 incredible count no flag (*CBC database*)
6 Kiln November 5, 1987 JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)
1 Lakeshore 19 April 1992 TS (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)
1 Seaman Road September 9, 1999 CD, et al (*Peterson, 2001 MK 31-1*)
19 Ansley 17 March 2004 NB (*unpubl. rec.*)
3 Ansley 1 January 2005 NB (*ebird*)
12 Seaman Road 27 October 2016 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Comment

On October 14, 2010 SM obtained a remarkable photo at Seaman Road of three ibis species feeding together (MBRC Archives)

Birds identified only as *Plegadis* have been recorded on eleven MSSH counts and nine MSJC counts. Numbers ranged from one to fourteen.

Roseate Spoonbill

Platalea ajaja

General Status

Formerly considered accidental (Troups and Jackson, 1987). Though still not nearly as numerous as it is northward in the state, the spoonbill is now a regular non-breeding visitor in small numbers. Most sightings are single birds. 2-3 is not unusual. Most occur from early July through October.

Early/Late Dates

4 CataS 17 April 2016 NB (*ebird*)
CataS 21 May 2004 JB, NB (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)
Hancock Co 8 December 1984 JT (*Troups and Jackson, 1987*)
2 Seaman Road 19 November 2015-14 January 2016 (*Survey Team*)

High Counts

9 CataS 29 September 2011 NB (*ebird*)
10 Singing River I 12 September 2016 BJ, et al Photos (*ebird*)

Documentation- photograph MBRC Archives

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NEW WORLD VULTURES, OSPREYS, RAPTORS *Cathartidae, Pandionidae, Accipitridae*

Black Vulture

Coragyps atratus

General Status

A common permanent resident though somewhat scarce in the southern half of the Region until wintering birds arrive. Breeding is probable, but there are no definite records.

Numbers

Can seem to be absent from an area until several appear like magic at a road kill. Flocks of 50 are not unusual in some places.

Evening roosts of a hundred or more are reported from time to time

125 Hancock Co. (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

200 northwest of Picayune (*fide, GF, NW*)

What appear to be migratory movements are noted occasionally:

47 in six hours moving southwest Heron Bay 12 August 2004 NB (*ebird*)

80 in 2+ hours moving southwest Heron Bay 31 October 2006 (*ebird*)

CBC Data

MSSH: Normal range, 20 to 80. Maximum, 308 in 1983.

MSJC: Normal range, 10 to 30.

Documentation- Specimen-USNM

Turkey Vulture

Carthartes aura

General Status

In general a common permanent resident, though rather scarce in southern Harrison and Jackson Counties particularly during warmer weather.

Breeding

Turcotte and Watts, 1999 report “confirmed breeding” for Pearl River Co. but offer no specifics. Doubtless reference is to a clutch of two eggs collected 15 April 1939 currently in the MMNS collection (*fide, NW*). Certainly breeding anywhere in w. Hancock or the northern tier would seem likely.

Numbers

Cruising birds seem more frequent than Black Vultures but concentrations at kills are seldom as large, 5 to 6 birds seems the norm.

Large migratory movements are frequent

300+ in 6-7 hours Heron Bay 22 November 2004 NB (*ebird*)

88 in 30 minutes Henleyfield 16 March 2006 NB (*ebird*)

CBC Data

MSSH: Normal range, 70 to 100

MSJC: Much scarcer; most counts only 1 to 5.

Documentation- Photograph (RHa)

Comment

There is some interesting information on foraging efficiency, energy utilization, etc to account for differences in vulture soaring strategies. For starters, try *BNA-Turkey Vulture-Section 7* and *Wilson Bulletin 106(4)* at elibrary.unm.edu

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

General Status

Found year round but more common and widespread in winter when northern visitors are present.

Breeding

The largest concentration of nests are on the barrier islands but there are a number of sites on the mainland coast and along major rivers.

CBC Data suggests an increase in recent years

MSSH- 1977 to 1996-total of 30 in 20 years

MSJC 1997-2006- total of 144 in 14 years

High Counts

16 PRMCP 26 March 2007 JW (*ebird*)

20 GB N/N 17 July 2003 MW (*ebird*)

20 Cat Island 8 April 2017 JH, et.al. (*ebird*)

White-tailed Kite

Elanus leucurus

General Status

First reported at PortBien October 1982. By 1988 it was breeding, and seemed to be well established, in southwestern Hancock Co. But by 1992 it had entirely disappeared. At peak, the total population was probably about 15 birds.

History

1982-First sighting- JT, et al (*Toups, et al, 1985 Am Birds 39:865-867*)

1983-Breeding established-late winter/ early spring (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

1983-1990-High counts-several sightings of 7-9 /day

1991-Last year of regular sightings

1992-one sighting Ansley 22 October NB (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

1993- Last sighting in former nesting area 2 April JT (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

The only record away from southwestern Hancock during those years was one at Green Is-8 November 1988-CD (*Hodges, 1988 MK 19-2*)

Since then one was seen at Keesler AFB, Jackson Co. in 2002-SM (*pers. comm.*)

Documentation- Specimen-LSUMZ

Comment

This species is a small mammal specialist and its eruptive appearance and sudden disappearance may be linked to cyclical patterns of a favored prey. See *BNA, sec 7 of White-tailed Kite*.

Swallow-tailed Kite

Elanoides forficatus

General Status

An uncommon summer resident present mainly from early March to mid August.

Early/Late Dates

Gulfport 21 February 2010 NM (*unpubl. rec.*)

Spence's Woods, Hancock Co 27 February 2000 DMc, JT (*unpubl. rec.*)

MSCNWR 27 February 2004 SD, GK, et al (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

Ward Bayou 27 February 2008 N. Ranfield (*ebird*)

9 moving north during late season cold front CataS 17 May 2007 NB (*ebird*)

September 2, 2004-Heron Bay-NB (*ebird*)

September 7, 1994-PortBien-NB (*ebird*)

Breeding

Predominately in the Pearl and Pascagoula basins, not particularly numerous but reasonably easy to find. Prefers a certain physical profile for its nest site (*see BNA sec 10 of STKI account*) that may have been seriously reduced by Hurricane *Katrina*. (fide, JCo).

High Counts

21 migrants Gulfport Mid April 2007 AH (*pers.com*)

23 Henleyfield 31 March 2009 NB (*ebird*)

24 Hancock Co 13 March 2015 L. Simonson (*ebird*)

Aerial surveys of late summer pre-migration roosts often tally over 100.

135 Pearl River Basin (portions of Hancock and Pearl River Cos. and adjacent Louisiana)-1 August 2000 JC, et al (*Schiefer, 2001 MK 31-2*)

167 Pascagoula River in George and Jackson Cos 11 August 1999 MW, et al (*Peterson, 2001 MK 31-1*)

Documentation- Specimen-MSU

Golden Eagle

Aquila chrysaetos

General Status

About fifteen valid sightings rather evenly distributed through the winter months and from a wide range of locales.

Examples:

Graveline Beach 1 November 1978 LG, JT (*Jackson, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Van Cleave Jackson Co 13 January 1940 collected (*Gandy and Turcotte, 1970*)

Bayou Cassotte 23 February 1980 JT (*Jackson and Schardien, 1980 MK 10-1*)

Ansley 7 March 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 13 March 2014 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 4 January 2016 (*MSJC*)

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Mississippi Kite

Ictinia mississippiensis

General Status

A regular summer resident from mid April to late August. Formerly confined to wooded river bottoms, now increasing and has been found nesting in residential areas in recent years.

Early/Late Dates

2 Gulfport 26 March 2014 NM (*pers comm.*)

Shepard Park 1 April 2013 I. Ferrell (*ebird*)

Henleyfield 7 April 2013 NB (*ebird*)

Bellebeach 15 April 1981 MH, JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

2 Gautier 15 October CD (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Henleyfield 27 October 2006 NB (*ebird*)

High Counts

60 single flock Saucier 21 April, 2010 S. Smith (*pers.comm.*)

60 Seaman Road 7 May 2015 (*Survey Team*)

75 in two hours-ORWMA-12 August 2006 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen-LSUMZ

Northern Harrier

Circus cyaneus

General Status

A common winter visitor from mid September to late April. It is most frequent in the coastal marshes but also occurs regularly in upland fields and pastures.

Early/Late Dates

Seaman road 1 August 2013 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman road 2 August 2007 *Survey Team*)

Heron Bay 8 August 1988 NB (*ebird*)

PRM 8 May 1977 WW (*Weber and Jackson, 1978 MK 7-2*)

Summer

2 PRM 5-19 June 1977-JT, WW, et al. (*Weber and Jackson, 1978 MK 7-2*) Possibly from May 8, 1977? See above.

2 (male and female) Ansley marshes 24 June 2013 MW et al (*pers comm.*)

CBC Data

Counts seem to show some decline (high counts for both were in the 1980's) but vary so markedly year to year that any trend is hard to discern.

High Counts

14 migrants in three hours Heron Bay 19 March 2007 NB (*ebird*)

15 GB N/N 26-27 January 2006 JW (*ebird*)

15 Grand Bay 14 January 2011 NB, JW (*ebird*)

23 Diamondhead 16 December 2014 OG (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Accipiter striatus

General Status

A regular winter visitor from mid September to late April. Though noted for raiding feeders, it is primarily a furtive woodland species, probably more common than indicated by sightings. Possibly breeds here occasionally.

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 17 August 2006 (*Survey Team*)

2 Logtown 28 August 1992 JT, et al (*(Schiefer, 1993 MK 22-2)*)

Greenw I 23 May 1984 DaK, JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

Breeding

Two adults on 27 July, 2001 at Moss Point and one, 1 August, 2001 in DeSoto NF, are suggestive. Both observations by S. Woltman (*Knight, 2002 MK 32-1*)

Numbers

There are some incidental reports of migrant flights; e.g., 10 on 25 October 1983 (Toups and Jackson, 1987) that really don't tell us much. A dedicated "hawk watch" in the Region would doubtless produce better numbers.

CBC Data

Tallies on both local CBCs have averaged three to nine birds/year for past 30 years; showing no discernible change.

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Cooper's Hawk

Accipiter cooperii

General Status

Still primarily a winter visitor from early September to early May but there has been an increased number of nesting reports in the past few years, both here and in the Southeastern U.S. generally.

Breeding

First documented nesting seems to have been "summer, 2004-Old Biloxi Cemetery-photograph" (*JT pers. comm.*) Other sites in recent years include Ansley 2004 NB; Davis Bayou 2005 SH; and Gulfport Hospital grounds 2007 photo AM.

Numbers

Maximum reported.4 Pascagoula 2 August 2007 JW (*ebird*). Probably a family group

CBC Data

Tallies on both CBCs have averaged three to four birds/year for past 30 years showing no discernible change.

Documentation- Specimen-USNM

[**Northern Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*.]

This species appears on the 25 Dec 1997 Jackson County CBC (*CBC Data Base*) Inexplicably, there is no flag or comment nor is an observer cited. It is not mentioned in BCM (Toups, et al) or in the original compilation of this list (JSP). Pending better information, the record is here considered of undetermined validity.

Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

General Status

The dramatic recovery of this species continent-wide is well documented here. Sightings are now common place from October through late April, a combination of local breeding birds and winter visitors. During the warmer months the northern birds leave and part of our population also disperses northward. At any season, most birds are found at or in close proximity to the coast.

Breeding

At present there are at least 25 active nest sites spread over all six counties vs. only 8 just a few years ago.

CBC Data

Both show a definite increase from 0 to 1 or 2 in earlier years to 4-5/year (MSSH) and 6-8/year (MSJC)

High Counts

13 Seaman Road 16 November 2017 (*Survey Team*)

18 Seaman Road 26 October 2017 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Comment

Migration and dispersal is a bit complex. *BNA (Bald Eagle, sec, 10)* explains it well.

Harris's Hawk

Parabuteo unicinctus

One was seen at Nicholson, Pearl River Co. in 1943 on 11 May, 9 July and 15 July AT (*Turcotte and Watts, 1999*)

Another was photographed at PRM on 1 December 1988 CD, et al... It was deemed a legitimately wild bird by the State Records Committee and added to the state list.

Comment

Two remarks regarding reports of this species in general.

“Status as a falconer’s bird makes extra-limital sightings of Harris’s Hawk suspect”-JSP

The North American population of this species is non-migratory, though young birds may wander in search of suitable territories (*See BNA account, distribution; migration*) - NB

Documentation- Photograph

Red-shouldered Hawk

Buteo lineatus

General Status

A common permanent resident, particularly in the Pearl and Pascagoula River bottoms. More generally widespread in winter when the population is augmented by northern birds.

BBS Data

Cyb, Ben 5/6 1-3; Nic 3/6 1-6; Lat 2/6 0-1

CBC Data

No indication of any significant change over 30 years. Typical numbers in the last ten years: MSSH-10 to 33 per count; MSJC-less than 10 per count

High Counts

9 PRWMA 12 February 2009 ZN (*ebird*)

9 Poplarville 3 April 2016 JL (*ebird*)

12 Black Creek, Jackson Co. 18 March 2009 ZN (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen-LSUMZ

Broad-winged Hawk

Buteo platypterus

General Status

A regular summer resident from early April to mid October in wooded areas northward. Less frequent in the vicinity of the coast.

Early/Late Dates

Picayune 25 February 2011 NB (*ebird*)

Davis Bayou 18 March 2000 (*MSU banding data, fide JeT*)

Logtown 22 March 1984 MB, JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

PRM 13 November 1980 MH (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

Seaman Road 21 November 1995 CC, ADu (*Survey Team*)

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 1-3; all others 0

Winter

Only one satisfactory report to date:

Delisle Harrison Co. 4 February 2006 Adult bird JB (*unpubl. rec.*)

Numbers

The large migrating flocks for which this species is famous do not seem to occur here.

Some typical counts:

104 in about three hours Henleyfield 31 March 2009 NB (*ebird*)

53 in about 2 ½ hours Ansley 5 October 1999 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Swainson's Hawk

Buteo swainsoni

General Status

Nearly annual in fall. Most are singles in October and November usually present for only a day. There are a few sightings into December but no clear evidence of over-wintering.

There are five spring reports.

Ansley 6 April 1998- NB (*ebird*)

Ansley 15 April, 2001 NB (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 15 April, 2004 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 4 April 2005 CD, et al. (*unpubl. rec.*)

Ansley 8 April, 2010 NB (*ebird*)

Summer

Kiln 11 July 1987 NN, PN (*Hodges 1987, MK 17-2*)

(I could find no detailed account of this most remarkable sighting).

Dark morph sightings

Pearlington 22 February through 8 March 1984 JT, et al. (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984, MK 14-2*)

[2 November 2011 Pascagoula JW This report posted to *ebird* but never submitted to MBRC] It should be noted that dark morph birds occur in less than ten percent of most populations, somewhat higher in the far west

Documentation- Photograph OG (*ebird*)

Red-tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis

General Status

Widespread throughout from October through April, when wintering northern birds are present. As a breeding bird it is fairly common northward but quite sparse towards the coast.

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 1-4; Ben 1/6 0-1; Nic 1/6 0-3; Lat 4/6 0-1

CBC Data

Totals do not indicate any significant change over 30 years. Typical range in the last ten years: MSSH-10 to 47 per count; MSJC-13 to 30.

Comment

Birds with krideri-like characteristics are fairly frequent in winter (photo-Ansley-NB) and can easily be transmogrified into the next species by the overly-eager.

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

***Rough-legged Hawk**

Buteo lagopus

Six sight records to date

Wiggins, Stone County 22 April 1978 LG (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)
CataN 30 December 1989 NB (*ebird*)
Seaman Road 20 January 1995 (*Survey Team*)
Heron Bay 28 November 1998 NB (*ebird*)
Heron Bay 1 January 2010 NB (*ebird*)
Seaman Road 23 January 2014 *Survey Team*)
Documentation- Needed

***Ferruginous Hawk**

Buteo regalis

Five sight records to date.

Hancock Co. 27 December 1980 CBC-RC (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)
Seaman Road 4 and 11 April 1991 Toups, et al. (*Schiefer, 1992 MK 22-2*)
Lakeshore, Hancock Co 4 January 1985. JT, et al. (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)
Pascagoula River 6 March 2007 CB, JoF, MF, JPe (*pers. comm. JPe*)
Ansley 6 November 2010 NB (*ebird*)
Documentation- Needed

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RAILS, CRANES *Rallidae, Gruidae*

Yellow Rail

Coturnicops noveboracensis

General Status

Though long suspected of occurring annually, up until quite recently there were only about twenty definite records of this species. Now recent work by JW, MW, et al. has shown it to be a regular winter resident at GBNERR and MSCNWR. For example, 9 flushed at GBNERR evening 7 January 2011; 10 same site 14 February 2013 3 Restricted site in Hancock Co 4 February 2017.

Early/Late Dates

Kiln 1 4 October 1989 JT, et al. (*pers. comm. to JSP*)
PRM 17 April 1982 JT (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)
Bay St Louis 21 April 1902 (*fide WW Cooke*)
Coastal Jackson Co 22 April 2004. SD (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

Documentation- Photograph. MBRC Archives

Black Rail

Laterallus jamaicensis

General Status

Certainly occurs more often than sightings suggest. Until fairly recently there were only about a dozen credible records scattered from October to late April. They were from both coastal and inland sites, but preferred habitat was deemed to be the higher portions of salt marsh. However, recent sightings and captures during nocturnal Yellow Rail surveys (MW, et al.) indicate that it may be equally frequent in pine savannah.

Early/Late Dates

MSCNWR killed by a mower. 12 October 1988

Seaman Road 2 February 1998 CD, JPe, DMc (*Survey Team*)

Comment

A sighting at Clermont Harbor on 14 June 1936 seems questionable. There is no clear evidence that the MS coast is, or ever was, within the summer range of this species. As both JSP and *Toups and Jackson, 1987* point out it is quite possible to mistake downy young of Clapper Rails for this species.

King Rail

Rallus elegans

General Status

A regular, but very localized, permanent resident.

Breeding

Known localities include CataN (est. 8-9 pairs) CataS (2-3 pairs) MSCNWR, and formerly, the west most of the Lakeshore Ponds. Reports from brackish locations (e.g., White's Bayou in Hancock Co.) need substantiation.

CBC Data

Counts on both CBCs have been consistent over the years; usual tallies are 5 to 8 Actual numbers are undoubtedly higher. Presumably some northern visitors are involved but data are lacking.

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Comment

Sometimes a bit tricky to distinguish, both visually and aurally, from the Clapper. Visitors should bear in mind that King Rail and the bright Gulf Coast form of Clapper Rail can look very much alike. Though only King would be present in inland fresh water locations, the two can occur together in brackish areas, particularly in winter. For vocalization, see Meanley, *The Auk* v074 n 04 available on line at *UNM elibrary*.

Clapper Rail

Rallus longirostris

General Status

A common permanent resident of salt marsh throughout.

Breeding

Data from surveys in the Pascagoula River Marshes by JW and MW 2010-11 yielding averages of 25-35 birds per 5-7 km. is probably typical for the entire coast.

CBC Data

Overall, fluctuations in CBC numbers seem more a function of boat/hours than population. The crash recorded by MSSH 2005 following Hurricane *Katrina* (only one recorded) was certainly quite real. However a count of 40 in the next year was back in the normal range.

High Counts

On 11 September 1988 following Hurricane *Florence* (JT) and 3 October 2002 following Hurricane *Lili* (NB) 200-300 were found on the Hancock waterfront scurrying about on the beach and riding into shore on rafts of marsh grass, apparent refugees from the Louisiana Delta.

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Virginia Rail

Rallus limicola

General Status

A winter visitor from early September to late April. A furtive species, probably under-recorded. Though primarily a fresh water species, it occurs regularly in brackish marsh in winter.

Early/Late Dates

Graveline Beach North Shore 29 August 2012 J. Wright (*ebird*)

Pine Island Golf Course, Jackson Co. 4 September 1986 J. Spence (*Jackson and Hodges, 1986 MK 16-2*)

PRM 6 September 1989 MH (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Green I 21 April 1991 CD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Seaman Road 9 May 2000 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 22 May 2008 (*Survey Team*)

CBC Data

MSSH-3-6 birds/year consistently for 30 years

MSJC-1-5 birds/year until 2000, then an incredible increase to 20-30/year with a max. of 87 in 2005. Almost certainly a result of a change in count coverage and/or procedure.

High Counts

75 Seaman Road 3 November 2000 (*Survey Team*)

78 Seaman Road 16 January 2003 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen-MSU

Sora

Porzana carolina

General Status

A common winter visitor, highly vocal and more likely to feed in the open than other rails.

Early/Late Dates

PRM 16 August 1982 JT, et al (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

Seaman Road 19 May 1999 CD el Al (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 23 July 1998 (*Survey Team*)

Numbers

Counts of over 100 have been recorded at Seaman Road at the height of spring migration in mid April.

Winter counts in the same locale average 20 to 50 /day.

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Purple Gallinule

Porphyrio martinicus

General Status

A summer resident of fresh water marsh from mid April to mid October, still locally common but in general much reduced or gone entirely from some former sites. (e.g., Lakeshore Ponds)

Early/Late Dates

Wavelag 30 March 2004 Mary Gimpal, Don Small (*ebird*)

Biloxi 1 April 1984 JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)
Hancock Co 2 November 1985 MH, WMD (*Hodges 1985 MK 15-2*)
CataS 29 November 1979 JT (*Jackson and Schardien, 1980 MK 10-1*)

Two Winter Records

Seaman Road 18 December 2004 NB (*MSJC*)
Seaman Road One, continuously present, 14 January thru mid-March 2017

Breeding

Sites include: CataN, 6-8 pairs; Seaman Road; and, erratically, 1-2 pairs at Wavelag and CataS

Numbers

Typical mid summer counts at Seaman Road (*Survey Team*)
1983-2009 25-50. Max 97 29 June 2006
2010-2015 15-20 Max 27 17 September 2015

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Common Gallinule

Gallinula galeata

General Status

A permanent resident, still common to abundant in stable locales but overall suffering from habitat loss and degradation. Occurs in both fresh and brackish marsh. Local birds seem to withdraw from some inland locations in winter; conversely, winter populations in places like Seaman Road probably include northern visitors.

Breeding

Typical locales include: CataN, Seaman Road, Pascagoula River and Ansley.
Typical mid summer counts at Seaman Road (*Survey Team*)
1983-2009 70-90 Max 300 29 August 2002
2010-2015 30-60 Max 96 30 July 2015

CBC Data

MSSH-From counts as high as 242 in 1992 and 82 in 1996 crashed to 0 to 5/year from 1998 to present.

MSJC-Normal range 6-20/year. Maxima 63 in 2002, 98 in 2005.

High Counts

300 Seaman Road 29 August 2002 (*Survey Team*)
302 Seaman Road 16 January 2003 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen-USNM

American Coot

Fulica americana

General Status

An abundant winter visitor from late September to mid May. Found mainly in fresh and sheltered salt water, occasionally on the open waters of the Sound. Sparse and erratic as a breeding species.

Typical Breeding Reports

Adult with downy young Seaman Road 4 April 1991 (*Survey Team*)
Adult with 4 downy young CataN 24 May 2007 NB (*ebird*)
Ault with 2 downy young Seaman Road 15 July 2013 (*Survey Team*)

High Counts

2000 CataN 8 February 2007 NB (*ebird*)

4100 Seaman Road 6 November 2014 (*Survey Team*)

4506 Seaman Road 14 November 2013 (*Survey Team*)

4653 Seaman Road 20 November 2014 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen-LSUMZ

Sandhill Crane

Grus canadensis

General Status

About 100+ birds of the endemic north gulf coast population still remain at the Crane NWR. Small flocks of them are often seen feeding in fields and pastures nearby, most particularly at the Seaman Road Sewage Lagoons site.

None of the major wintering grounds of the migratory populations of Sandhill Crane are close to the Mississippi coast See the map at *savingcranes.org*

But small numbers (15 to 25-SH, *fide* CD) show up annually at the refuge, Seaman Road and sporadically elsewhere (principally Hancock Co.) mostly mid November to late February.

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

[Whooping Crane *Grus americana*]

Deleted

Formerly included on the basis that following was a supposed sight observation by W.W. Cooke

Bay St Louis 15 April 1902 W.W.Cooke (*Burleigh 1944*).

However, based on the following information contributed by NW the species has been deleted from the list.

“Attached is the document of Cooke's where he mentions the BSL record. It's mentioned in the Spring Migration table on page 6. I find no mention of this record in the text. He does state under Migration on page 4 that "the migration data are taken principally from reports of observers scattered all over the United States and Canada, for who 30 years have been furnishing the Biological Survey extensive records of bird movements." I don't believe the MS record is his own, and I'm not sure if there's any way to find out whose it is. I feel with no other supporting info, it shouldn't be considered acceptable.”

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STILT, OYSTERCATCHERS, PLOVERS *Recurvirostridae- Charadriidae*

Black-necked Stilt

Himantopus mexicanus

General Status

Found year round but most numerous as a post breeding season visitor from late summer through late fall. It is rather localized in winter and as a breeding species (MSSH-Only four times, MSJC-28 of 30 years-normal range 20-60)

High Counts

183 Seaman Road 29 August 2002 (*Survey Team*)

202 Seaman Road 2 September 2004 (*Survey Team*)

300+ PRM 11 and 18 August 1984-JT, et al (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

Breeding

Regular at Seaman Rd. First report, 10 adults and 8 chicks 22 May 1992 JT, et al (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 22*) Currently about 20 pairs.

Erratically at CataS, first report 2 adults and 3 chicks 2 June 2007 NB (*unpubl. rec.*).
Currently 0-5 pairs/year.

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

American Avocet

Recurvirostra americana

General Status

Most frequent as a migrant, mid March to mid April and early August to late September. Localized in winter and quite scarce as a non-breeding summer visitor. Fortuitous inland, e.g. one overhead Henleyfield, 27 October 2009 NB (*ebird*)

Winter

Has been recorded on MSSH only once, a single bird in 2001, but is regular on MSJC, normally ranging from 1 or 2 to 20+

High Counts

Formerly congregated in large numbers at PRM in the fall, e.g.

460 on 1 October 1977. (*Toups and Jackson 1986*)

Some high counts in more recent years

72 MSJC 29 December 1986

42 Green Is 23 April, 1991 JT, GM, et al (*Schiefer, 1992 MK 22-2*)

18 Seaman Road 29 August 2013 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

American Oystercatcher

Haematopus palliatus

General Status

A permanent resident, nesting in small numbers on the barrier islands. Most frequent on the mainland from early October to late April, particularly when very low tides expose mollusk beds. Formerly quite scarce in Hancock Co. but has increased notably in recent years.

High Counts

36 GB N/N 29 November 2010 JW (*ebird*)

44 10 February 2017 Ocean Springs (*ACBS*)

47 8 January 2017 Ocean Springs JL (*ebird*)

CBC Data

MSSH- normally records two to ten in recent years

MSJC-Has shown a marked increase in recent years-typical range is now 20 to 50.

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Black-bellied Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

General Status

A common winter visitor from late August to late April and a rare but regular non-breeding visitor through the summer. During migration may occur well inland, especially during inclement weather. Otherwise, pretty well confined to coastal beaches and flats.

High Counts

250 Hancock beaches after Hurricane *Lili* 3 October 2002 NB (*ebird*)

400 Jackson Co. Airport 14 January 1961 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

CBC Data

Counts on both CBC's in recent years ranged from 50 to 175; 20 to 40 was typical.

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

American Golden-Plover

Pluvialis dominica

General Status

An erratic migrant at any season, but much more frequent, and sometimes numerous, in spring from mid March to late April. Fall sightings are much fewer, usually 1-2 birds. At either season, most occurrences are from inland locations like airports, pastures, etc usually after adverse weather. Very seldom found on beaches.

Early/Late Dates-Spring

23 February 1984 Biloxi J. Spence (*Weber and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

30 April 1987 Hancock Co. CD, et al (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

10 May 2012 Seaman Road (*Survey Team*)

16 May 2002 Seaman Road (*Survey Team*)

Summer

Green Is 1 July 1991 J. Wilson (*Schiefer, 1992 MK 22-2*)

Early/Late Dates-Fall

22 August 1977 Pascagoula ADu (*Weber and Jackson, 1978 MK 8-1*)

22 August 1984 Hancock Co DaK, JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

13 October 2017 Hancock Co. KH (*ebird*).

14 October 2017 Deer Is. JL (*ebird*).

Winter

Four or five singles between mid-December and early January, mostly on CBCs

Numbers

100 Bayou Cassotte 25 March 1989 JT (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

116 Seaman Road 31 March 2005(*Survey Team*)

175 Klein's Fields 3 April 2001 Hancock Co. NB (*ebird*).

200 Henleyfield 16-17 March 2010 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Snowy Plover

Charadrius nivosus

General Status

Currently breeds only on the barrier islands. (Last successful mainland nesting was in the early 1980's.). A regular transient and uncommon winter visitant throughout

Breeding

4-5 pairs on Horn Island, 2 pairs on West Ship Island 1977 R. Russell (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-2*)

4 pairs East Ship Island 19 April 2003 SD, et al (*Schiefer, 2004 MK 34-1*)

Winter

As many as 55 have been counted on winter surveys on the barrier islands. Mainland totals are notably less. Observation of color-banded birds suggested that many wintering birds are from breeding colonies in FL. (*fide, NW*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Wilson's Plover

Charadrius wilsonia

General Status

An uncommon summer resident breeding on the barrier islands and locally on the mainland. Formerly more widespread Very seldom found away from these locales. Most frequent from mid March to mid September but being found with increased frequency in winter, particularly in the GB N/N area. On 5 February 2018 a remarkable count of 15 was tallied on Round Island (*ACBS*)

Early/Late Dates

2 pairs on territory GB N/N 2 March 2009 JW (*ebird*)

East Ship I 8 March 1977 WW (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-2*)

East Ship I 8 March 1978 WW (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

13 GB N/N 16 November 2009 JW (*ebird*)

PRM 26 November 1989 MH, et al. (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Typical winter sightings:

Bayou Caddy 20 December 2011 JW (*ebird*)

PRM 21 December 1985 MH, et al (*Jackson, 1986 MK 16-1*)

West GB N/N 22 January, 2010 JW (*pers comm.*)

Jackson Co 2 February 1999 KK (*unpubl. rec.*)

Breeding

Nest with three eggs GBNERR 10 April 2003 MW, et al. (*Schiefer, 2004 MK 34-1*)

Other mainland sites include PRM (formerly) and Greenw Is.

High Counts

16 PRM 19-25 August 1977 WW (*ebird*)

16 GBN/N 4 April 2009 JW (*ebird*)

18 GBN/N 25 August 2010 JW (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Semipalmated Plover

Charadrius semipalmatus

General Status

A common transient and fairly common winter visitor from mid August to mid May. A few non-breeding birds are usually found in summer, mostly on the barrier islands. Occurs regularly in fresh water locations during migration but at other seasons is confined mostly to beaches and coastal flats.

Winter

65 Bayou Caddy 22 April 2012 SE, NB (*ebird*)

CBC Data

MSSH 16 December. Normal range five to ten 30 Maximum 2014

MSJC Normal range 15-40. 64 Maximum 2013

High Counts

76 Bayou Caddy 3 August 2013 NB (*ebird*)

95 Gr Bay 12 November 2010 JW (*ebird*)

95 Gr Bay 14 December 2011 NB, JW (*ebird*)

98 Round Island 5 February 2016 (*ACBS*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Piping Plover

Charadrius melodus

General Status

A formerly common but now declining winter visitor to mainland sandy beaches from early August to mid May. Still occurs in considerable numbers on the barrier islands, at least in migration. Has been recorded in all months of the year.

High Counts

31 Horn Island 27 February 2004 PB, SD, DMc, et al (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

21 Horn Island 24 April 2004 SD, GK, DMc, et al (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

77 Barrier Islands 4 August 2004 SD, GK, DMc, et al (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

CBC Data

MSSH 1976-1985 recorded very year. Average range 10-18. Maximum 41 in 1981

1986-1999 13 of 14 years. Average range 4-6. Maximum 13 in 1986

2000-2014 9 of 15 years. Average range 1-6. Maximum 18 in 2001

MSJC 1974-1985 10 of 12 years average range 1-6 Maximum 14 in 1984.

1986-2012 None

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Killdeer

Charadrius vociferus

General Status

A permanent resident, most abundant in migration and winter. Adaptable and fairly tolerant of humans, the Killdeer is still fairly common as a breeding species, but like other ground nesting birds it is steadily losing suitable territory.

BBS Data

None

High Counts

600 Seaman Road 8 February 2014 (*survey Team*)

650-700 CataS 1 November 2006 NB (*ebird*).

~1700 circular route of 125 miles through Pearl River and Hancock Counties following hard freeze northward. 1 February, 2011 NB (*unpubl rec*)

CBC Data

MSSH. Normal range 200 to 500, maximum 1006

MSJC Normal range 100 to 300; maximum 678

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

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SANDPIPERS, ETC *Scolopacidae*

Upland Sandpiper

Bartramia longicauda

General Status

An uncommon to rare migrant from mid March to mid May and early August to mid September. Favors pastures, airports, etc.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Seaman Rd 16 March 2013 G. Davis, et al. (*ebird*)

Kiln 25 March 1986 GM, JT, et al (*Jackson, 1986 MK 16-1*)

Seaman Road 25 March 1997 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road May 16 1997 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 16 May 2013 MW (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 19 May 2005 MW (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Seaman Road 4 August 1999 (*Survey Team*)

Green Is 25 September 1988 CD (*Jackson and Hodges, 1986 MK 16-2*)

Diamondhead 14 October 2011 photo SE (*pers comm.*)

High Counts

8 PortBien 23 April 1983 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

11 Seaman Road 1 April 1997 (*Survey Team*)

12 Stennis AP, Hancock Co 24 April 2004 NB (*ebird*)

21 Pearl River Co. Airport 13 April 2009 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen LSUMZ

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

General Status

A migrant from early April to mid May and mid August to late September. Most frequent on the barrier islands. Most mainland sightings are 1-3 and decrease in frequency, east to west. Rare in winter and casual in summer.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Pascagoula beach 5 March 1990 CC, JT (*Schiefer, 1991 MK 21-1*)

Bayou Caddy 20 May 1962 SC (*Gandy and Turcotte, 1970*)

11 Jackson Co 29 May 1961 Observer? (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

3 East Ship I 28 June 2012 JW (*ebird*)

PRM 30 June-1 July 1991 JWi (*Schiefer, 1992 MK 22-2*)

Diamondhead 14 October 2011 SE (*Rigby 2012 MK 42-2*)

PRM 2 November 1991 TS, et al (*Schiefer, 1992 MK 22-2*)

CBC Data

MSJC-Only three times in 30 years-singles in the early 1990's.

Winter

RM 6 January 1991 CD (*pers comm. to JSP*)

3 GB N/N 20-28 January 2010 JW (*ebird*)

Jackson Co 2 February 1994 CD (*pers comm. to JSP*)

2 GB N/N 19 February 2010 JW (*ebird*)

High Counts

19 Gr Bay 17 May 2007 MW (*ebird*)

24 Gr Bay 10 April 2006 JW (*ebird*)

24 Gr Bay 24 August 2009 JW (*ebird*)

125 GB N/N 25 April 2003 MW (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Long-billed Curlew

Numenius americanus

General Status

An erratic visitor in small numbers to the mainland; more frequent on the barrier islands, particularly the Grand Batture in Grand Bay. Most reports are from early October to late March, and again in August. Typical count: 1-4

Early/Late

Seaman Road 31 July 2014 (*Survey Team*)

Offshore Oil Transect 28 May 2010 B Schatt (*ebird*)

High Counts

7 GB N/N 23 May 2006 MW (*ebird*)

7 Gulfport 28 January 2011 J. Wang (*ebird*)

7 Seaman Road 9 February 2012 (*Survey Team*)

10 Gulfport 2 March 2010 CD (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen USNM

Hudsonian Godwit

Limosa haemastica

Four Records To Date

2 PRM 13 May 1978 JT, et al (*Donaldson, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Gulfport 31 October 1985 photo DaK, JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Seaman Road 22-23 April 1992 TS, et al (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

Seaman Road 4-5 November 2010 NM, et al photos (*ebird*)

Documentation- Photograph MBRC Archives

Comment

Though the migratory routes of this species indicate that occurrence here would be more likely in spring than fall, the four records to date are evenly split. For the remarkable migratory behavior of this species, see *BNA-Hudsonian Godwit-migration*.

Marbled Godwit

Limosa fedoa

General Status

A regular visitor in small numbers to beaches and tidal flats mostly from August to May but has been reported in every month. Sightings decrease notably from east to west. There many reports of 30 to 40 from the Mose's Pier-Gulfport Harbor area. 1-10 per sighting is more typical elsewhere.

Early/Late Dates

PRM 3 July 1981 GM, JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-2*)

Cat Island 27 May 1979 JT, WW (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-1*)

Davis Bayou 26 June 2003 P.Ellsworth (*ebird*)

CBC Data

MSJC Recorded seven times to date

MSSH Recorded three times to date

High Counts

49 Biloxi 2 April 2009 JW (*ebird*)

50 Gulfport 20 January 2012 D.Ringer (*ebird*)

58 Gulfport 24 February 2011 J.Wang (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Ruddy Turnstone

Arenaria interpes

General Status

A common winter visitor to the waterfront from September to April. Non-breeding summering individuals are frequent Formerly scarce west of the Jourdan River but becoming more frequent there with the increase in seawalls and jetties. Typically, 5-20/sighting Less than 6-7 inland records

CBC Data

MSJC: maximum 161 on Dec 18, 2004; normal range 8-20

MSSH: maximum 62 on Dec 20, 2011; normal range 8-12

High Counts

40 Bayou Caddy 18 February 2015 (*ACBS*)

51 PRM 17 May 1979 WW (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Red Knot

Calidris canutus

General Status

An erratic visitor most frequent on the barrier islands.

Has been recorded in every month, but is most frequent from October through March and least so from mid May to mid August. Easy to overlook in its nondescript basic plumage. Conversely, occasional mid winter reports of "hundreds" are almost certainly referable to Dunlin.

Some older counts

78 Gulfport 9 March 1987 CC, GM, JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

7-70 Harrison Co beaches 16 December 1987 to 18 January, 1988 JT, et al (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

70 Gulfport 28 October 1992 TS (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

Recent years

30 E. Ship I. 2 April 2011 (*ebird*)
62 W. Ship I. 22 May 2016 OG photo (*ebird*)
110 W. Ship I. 22 May 2016 OG photo (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Comment

This species is in serious decline throughout the western hemisphere. For a comprehensive report (May 2011) see the website of the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences

***Ruff**

Calidris pugnax

Three records to date, further sightings are within reason.

PRM 1 August, 1982 JT et al (*Toups and Roemer, 1982 MK 12-1*)

PRM 22 September, 1984 CC, et al (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

Bayou Cassotte 20 August 1988 MB, MPo, JT (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Documentation- Needed

Stilt Sandpiper

Calidris himantopus

General Status

A fairly common but sometimes overlooked migrant from late March to late May and from mid July to early October. A few linger into June and December. Feeds in grassy pools, etc. Normally 5-20/day in favored locations. Often associated with, and mistaken for, dowitchers.

Early Dates Spring

Seaman Road 12 February 2007 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 16 February 1995 JPe, et al. (*Schiefer 1998 MK 28-1*)

Seaman Road 2 March 2001 CD, et al. (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

PRM 3 March 1991 CD, et al. (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Late Dates Fall

WaveLag 16 November 1998 NB (*ebird*)

Kiln 24 November, 1989 MH, JT (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Winter

Recorded on MSJC in three successive years, 1984-1986.

Seaman Road 11 January 2002 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 11 January 2007 (*Survey Team*)

Numbers

High Counts

250-300 PRM 12-18 August 1984 MH, JT, et al (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

210 CataS 1 April 2005 NB (*Wallace, 2005 No Am Birds Vol. 59 no. 3*)

100 Seaman Rd 30 April 2009 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Sanderling

Calidris alba

General Status

Ubiquitous on sandy beaches from mid July to mid May, it is scarce only for a short time in early summer. There are very few sightings away from the immediate waterfront.

High Counts

200 Hancock Beaches 18 August 1977 JT, WW (*Weber and Jackson, 1978 MK 8-1*)

350 Hancock Beaches 26 October 2006 NB (*ebird*)

600 Bayou Caddy 5 November 2012 (*ACBS Survey*)

CBC Data

MSJC A few counts over 100, usual range 30-60.

MSSH Several counts in the 200-300 range, usual range 60-80

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Dunlin

Calidris alpina

General Status

Our most common wintering shorebird, abundant from late September to late April. Rare but fairly regular as a non-breeding summer visitor. Most abundant along the waterfront and on the islands but also regular inland in small numbers.

CBC Data

MSSH: high 3250 -December 1984. Typical high hundreds to low thousands; no change over the years

MSJC: Steady decline. Counts over 1000 in the 1980's. Maxima in the high hundreds in the 1990's. Maxima in the low hundreds in the 2000's. (Disturbance? Count procedure?)

High Counts

1985 21 March 2006 JW (*ebird*)

2000 Gr Bay 26 January 2011 NB, JW (*ebird*)

5000 PRM 22 September 1979 LG, JT (*Jackson and Schardien, 1988 MK-10-1*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritima

General Status

The most remarkable of the seven records to date was one photographed in the road at Kiln, some 10 miles inland. All others are from waterfront breakwaters and jetties. Most remained for extended stays. Hopefully the recent increase in such structures may help to toll in future strays.

Pass Christian 19 January 1985 PSu (*Sunby, 1986 MK 16-2*)

Kiln 11-12 November 1987 JT, et al photo (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Gulfport 10 thru 20 April 1988 JT, et al (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

2 Gulfport-2 December 1988 to May 2, 1989 JT, et al (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Gulfport 28 November 1989 to March 25, 1990 JT, TS, et al (*Schiefer, 1991 MK 21-1*)

Gulfport 13 January 1991 to May 10, 1992 SM, JT, et al (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 25-2*)

Bayou Caddy 20 December 2011 JW, MW (MSSH)

Documentation- Photograph MBRC Archives

Baird's Sandpiper

Calidris bairdii

General Status

Rare at any season. Occurs from mid April to mid May and again, a bit more frequently, from early August to late October. Normally 1-2, rarely 3/sighting.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Seaman Road 15 April 2004 (*Survey Team*)

Horn Island 19-20 April 1978 WW (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Seaman Road 27 May 2004 (*Survey Team*)

CataS 27 May 2011 NB (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 28 May 2015 (*Survey Team*)

Deer Island 5 June 2011 Z. Lohman (*ebird*)

2 Seaman Road 14 June 2011 (*Survey Team*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

PRM 20 July 1978 MH, JT (*Schieffer and Hodges, 1987 MK 17-1*)

Seaman Road 15 Nov 1990 JT, et al (*Schieffer, 1991 MK 21-1*)

Seaman Road 26 November 1996 CD, DMc, JPe (*Survey Team*)

Winter

A report on a CBC in the 1970's was not accepted by the CBC editors. but was published elsewhere A review of all other CBCs from LA, AL and MS for the past thirty five years shows no reports for this species

High Counts

6 Deer Island 12 May 2016 (*ACBS*)

Documentation- Specimen LSUMZ

Least Sandpiper

Calidris mantilla

General Status

Abundant migrant (mid March to mid May and again from early August to late October). and common winter visitant. Somewhat more frequent inland than along the waterfront.

Summer sightings are fairly frequent.

CBC Data

MSJC Maximum 801 in 1988; counts of 100-300 in many years.

MSSH Maximum 157 in 2005

High Counts

20 PRM 30 June 1977 WW (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-2*)

476 Seaman Road 29 April 2004

500 PRM 3 September 1977 JT, et al. (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 8-1*)

700 Seaman Road 20 September 2002

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris fuscicollis

General Status

One of our latest spring migrants. Regular from early May to mid June. Normally 1-10/sighting. Only casual in fall when migration route is primarily over the ocean from southeastern Canada to northeastern South America. (see *BNA*). No winter records.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Seaman Road 16 April 2009 (*Survey Team*)
CataS 21 April 2015 NB (*ebird*) (*ebird*)
PRM 22 April 1978 WW, et al (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)
Hancock Co 22 April 1986 JT, et al (*Jackson, 1986 MK 16-1*)
3 W Ship I 10 June 2015 E. Enbody
Seaman Road 12 June 1995 (*Survey Team*)
2 Seaman Road 14 June 2011 (*Survey Team*)
1 Cat Island 14 June 2017 R. Newman (*ebird*)
PRM 16 June in three different years 1979, 1984 and 1985 JT, et al (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

PRM 15 July 1981 JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-2*)
PRM 17 September 1983 JD, JT (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)
Cat Island 1 August 2017 R. Newman (*ebird*)

Kiln 26 September 1989 JT (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

High Counts

45 Seaman Road 15 May 1998 (*Survey Team*)
60 PRM 10 May 1979 WW (*ebird*)
100 PRM 23 May 1979 WW (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Comment

The July record could as well be a lingering spring migrant.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Calidris subruficollis

General Status

A rare migrant with rather short periods of passage. In spring mostly from late March through April; in fall, early August through September. Frequents grassy, often quite dry, fields and pastures. Seldom more than a few per sighting.

Early/Late Dates Spring

PRM 16 March 1997 CD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)
Bayou Cassotte 23-24 March 1989 CC, GM, TS (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)
PRM 6 June 1982 JT (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Seaman Road 27 July 1994 CC, SM, JT (*Survey Team*)
Keesler AFB 1 August, 2000 JSP (*G. Jackson 2000, FN 54 61:65*)
Seaman Road 6 August 2015 (*Survey Team*)
Seaman Road 3 October 2013 (*Survey Team*)
3 Round Island 5 October 2017 (ACBS)
Round Island 18 October 2017 (ACBS)

High Counts

8 Seaman Road 29 August 2002 SW, MP, et al. (*Knight, 2002 MK 33-1*)
11 Seaman Road 2 September 2010 (*Survey Team*)
16 Harrison and Jackson Cos. 23 April 1983 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)
17 Harrison Co 23 September 1973 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Documentation- Specimen USNM

Comment

A CBC record for 17 December 1994 at Seaman Road does not seem credible. This species winters in southern South America, arriving there by mid October (BNA). It has never been reported on a CBC anywhere in the U.S in 106 years and I doubt if there is a winter record for anywhere in the U.S. On the other hand, one can always speculate over the possibility of an over-looked juvenile Ruff or Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Pectoral Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

General Status

A common migrant from early March to mid May and early July to mid October. Counts of 10-50 are not unusual. It is the quintessential “grasspiper” not often found on open beaches. Summer reports are fairly frequent; casual in winter.

Early/Late Dates Spring

PRM 20 February 1992 CD, JT, et al. (*Schieffer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

CataS 17 May 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Late Fall and Winter

Jackson Co 13 November 1991 CD, LJ (*pers com, CD to JSP*)

PRM 21 November 1985 MH, DaK, JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Kiln 10 December 1992 JT, et al (*Schieffer, 1992 MK 22-2*)

(A report of 14 birds on MSJC, 15 December 1973 seems quite unlikely)

High Counts

100 Seaman Road 25 July 1988 CC, JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

200 Seaman Road 12 August 1988 SM, JT (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

275 CataS 1 April 2005 NB (*ebird*)

342 Seaman Road 12 August 1997 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen LSUMZ

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Calidris pusilla

General Status

A common migrant from mid April to early June and late July through September when counts of 100 or more are not unusual at favored locales.

Scattered summer reports, usually 1-3 individuals..

Earl/Late Dates

Hancock Co 18 March 2015 J. Harris (*ebird*)

Jackson Co 20 March 1984 JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

Seaman Road 5 October 2017 (*Survey Team*)

Winter

Prior to the studies of Allan Phillips in the late 1960's the presence of this species in the U.S. in winter was generally taken for granted. (Though identifications in winter were perhaps not always based on the best of criteria). Allen's view, which dictated that it most definitely does not winter in the U.S, predominated for pretty much the next forty years. Now however, good evidence is accumulating that wintering birds do occur in the

U.S., albeit very rarely and irregularly. However, to date there are no incontrovertible winter records for the MS Coast

One late October and three November records of single birds by experienced observers that were deemed acceptable by JSP may well be valid but lack full documentation.

Counts of 45, 100, and 8 on three successive MSJC 1974-76 are clearly erroneous.

As per the following communication from Christopher Milensky, Smithsonian Institution to Nick Winstead. MMNS, The specimens collected by Burleigh at Deer Island 21 December 1940 were re-examined and determined to be Western Sandpipers "Subject: RE: *Calidris pusilla*. The two *C. mauri* (USNM 367911 and 367912) were cataloged in 1943 as *C. mauri* but in Burleigh's original field catalog he gave an initial ID as *C. pusilla*. An easy mistake to make."

High Counts

500 PRM 3 September 1977 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

700 PRM 29 May 1978 WW (*ebird*)

700 PRM 17 May 1979 WW (*ebird*)

1163 % September 017 Round Island (*ACBS*)

2500 PRM 23 May 1979 WW (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Comment

So what's a poor birder to do?

Study as much detailed ID material as possible. These three (all available online) are a good start:

ID articles by Dittman and Cardiff-*Calidris Sandpipers* (most particularly the section entitled *ID Pitfalls*). It is available at *the Louisiana Orn. Soc. Website*.

ID challenge at *Pacific NW Birder* site

Birding July/August 2008 – Peep ID

Study vocalizations (Per P.Buckley particularly useful in winter)

Be prepared to be uncertain a fair bit.

Western Sandpiper

Calidris mauri

General Status

The Western Sandpiper has been recorded in every month but occurs mostly from late July to mid May. Can be briefly abundant on the mainland beaches at migratory peaks in March and late August-early September. In winter, numerous on the barrier islands but usually somewhat scarce on the mainland. In summer, rare but fairly regular.

CBC Data

MSJC Counts of 2526 in 1984 and 1511 in 1988 seem questionably high and probably refer to **Dunlin**. Range of 20 to 50 is more usual

MSSH Only twice has exceeded 200. Normal range 10-20.

High Counts

500 PRM 23 October 1977 ISS (*ebird*)

500 Gr Bay 28 January 2010 NB, JW (*ebird*)

538 Round Island 23 January 2018 (*ACBS*)

900 5 October 2017 Round Island (*ACBS*)

937 5 February 2018 Round Island (*ACBS*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Short-billed Dowitcher

Limnodromus griseus

General Status

A common to abundant winter visitor from mid July to late May. Migrant peaks occur in early March to mid April and early August to mid October.

Counts of up to 100 are not unusual. At least a few are usually present through the summer. Occurs mainly on beaches and coastal flats but some occur inland to mingle with next species.

CBC Data

MSSH typical counts 300-700.

MSJC fluctuates considerably; 1 or 2 to 100+.

High Counts

316 W. Pascagoula R. 4 January 2011 CD (*ebird*)

352 Buccaneer SP 4 September 2011 BB, SE (*ebird*)

500 PRM 15 September 1985 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

300-700 ten miles Hancock waterfront typical winter count NB (*unpubl recs.*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Long-billed Dowitcher

Limnodromus scolopaceus

General Status

Time of occurrence is much the same as SBDO but LBDO is notably more localized. It is more a fresh water species, but except for sand beaches, it shares much habitat with the SBDO and they often mingle. It is by far most numerous and frequent at Seaman Road where counts of up to 60-70 are not unusual.

CBC Data

MSJC Maximum, 600 in 1985. Normal range 3-4 to 60-70.

MSSH Only 5 times. Maximum 25 in 2011

High Counts

400 PRM 9 April 1985 (*Toups and Jackson*)

525 Seaman Road 3 November 2011 (*Survey Team*)

1000-mixed flock, thought to be mostly LBD PRM 8 December 1985 (*Toups and Jackson*)

Comment

Dowitcher ID is not impossible but it is exacting. Short-cuts don't work. See the latest at *Surfbirds.com* and learn the calls.

Documentation- Specimen MSU

American Woodcock

Scolopax minor

General Status

A sparse winter visitor and possible breeder. Can be briefly abundant after a major hard freeze to the north. Normally undetected until flushed.

Early Fall

Pearlington 4 October 1984-MB, JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

DeSoto NF 8 November 2014 MS (*ebird*)

Biloxi 12 November 2013 photograph R. Smith (*Missbird*)

Late Spring

Logtown 1 April 2008 BB (*ebird*)

ORWMA 3 April 2014 NB (*ebird*)

West Ship Is. 29 April 2015 OG (*ebird*)

Breeding

No hard evidence to date. Displaying birds have been noted regularly in many locales in late winter, e.g.

Kiln, 1 January 2003.(SD) and 18 February 2005 (NB)

LaRue, 20 February 2007 (JW)

But this species is known to display on wintering grounds and in migration (see BNA account) Other summer records include:

Latimer 1 May 1978 WW (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Airey Tower Road, Stone Co. 29 May 2017 OG (*ebird*)

Ocean Springs 1 August 2000 foraging in a backyard JoF, MF (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

CBC Data

Both CBCs: one to five recorded most years.

High Counts

8 West Ship I 29 April 2015 OG (*ebird*)

15 to 17 Ansley 27-28 December 1989 following snow storm and hard freeze NB (MSSH in part)

Documentation-Photograph (fide Toups and Jackson)

Wilson's Snipe

Gallinago delicata

General Status

A widespread winter visitor from mid September to mid April. Particularly numerous at sites with flooded meadows such as CataN and Seaman Road where counts of a few hundred are not unusual.

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 23 July 1998 (*Survey Team*)

PRM 17 August 1985 MH, DaK (*Hodges 1985 MK 15-2*)

Seaman Road 28 August 1995 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 30 April 1999 (*Survey Team*)

CataS 5 May 2006 NB (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 11 May 2001 (*Survey Team*)

CBC Data

122 MSJC 18 December 1976 normal range 20 to 60.

1200 MSSH 20 December 2011; normal range 200-300.

High Counts

325 CataS 5 March 2007 NB (*ebird*)

470 CataN 5 November 2004 NB (*ebird*)

650 CataN 30 October 2011 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen LSUMZ

Wilson's Phalarope

Phalaropus tricolor

General Status

An uncommon migrant from mid April to late May and mid August to late September. Normally found in marshy pools near the coast; sometimes forages on wet mud margins. Normally 1-5/sighting.

Early/Late Dates Spring

PRM 2 March, 1996 CD, DMc (*pers com to JSP*)

2 Seaman Road 20 March 2003 (*Survey Team*)

Waveland 1 April 1987 CD, JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Jackson Co 10 May, 1989 CD, et al (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Pascagoula 16 May, 1999 CD, DMc (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

PRM 16 June 1985 -DaK, JT, et al (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Harrison Co. 1 July 1991 JWi (*ebird*)

Pascagoula 23 July, 1989- -CD (*pers com to JSP*)

PRM 24 July 1985 DaK, JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Seaman Road 1 August 1997 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 12 October 1986 CC (*Jackson and Hodges, 1986 MK 16-2*)

PRM 28 October 1984 JT, et al (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

CBC Data (?)

MSJC: 3 January, 1976.

Remarkably, the online CBC site account shows no flag or notation that this sighting is unusual. See comment.

High Counts

24 PRM 29 April 1979 WW (*ebird*)

27 Seaman Road 7 May 2015 (*Survey Team*)

30 PRMCP 7 September 1985 J. Holmes (*ebird*)

34 Seaman Road 7 May 2015 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen LSUMZ

Comment

Since 1900 there have been only three other CBC reports from the north gulf coast (*CBC database*). However EJ informs me that there have been almost a dozen other mid winter reports from LA in recent years which he suspects is due to actual distributional change rather than simply increased coverage.

Red-necked Phalarope

Phalaropus lobatus

Accidental in spring

Seaman Road 16 April 1992 CC, JT, et al (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

West Ship I 13 May 2017 OG Photo (*ebird*)

PRM 7 June 6 1979 MH, JT, et al. (*Toups, Hodges, Donaldson, 1979 MK 9-1*)

Fall

About a dozen records from late August to mid September, usually following tropical disturbances. Typical is two or three reports of small flocks (1-5) following T.S.Lee 1-3 September 2011

Two late sightings

Bay St L during Hurricane *Lili* 3 October 2002 NB (*Knight, 2002 MK 33-1*)

4 WaveLag 2 November 2002 possibly due also to *Lili* NB, JPe, JT, et al. (*Knight, 2002 MK 33-1*)

Documentation-Photograph MSU

Red Phalarope

Phalaropus fulicarius

Three records to date

Mississippi Sound 30 September, 1978 CDC (*Purrington, Am Birds, 1979*)

Seaman Road 4 October 1987 CD, JT, et al-photographed (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Seaman Road 18 October 1989 CC, MH, et al (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Documentation-Photograph MBRC Archives

Comment

There is evidence that this species winters in significant numbers off the southeast Atlantic Coast and perhaps also in the northern Gulf of Mexico (*BNA*). So be hopeful.

Spotted Sandpiper

Actitis macularius

General Status

A common migrant and scarce winter visitor. Found on inland waters and tidal creeks but also partial to breakwaters and seawalls particularly in winter. Peak periods are from late March to mid May in spring and late July through September in fall. There are a few summer reports.

Migrant Counts

20 PRM 27 April 1982 JT GM (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

45 Graveline Beach 1 May 2013 J.Wright (*ebird*)

16 CataS 4 May 2006 NB (*ebird*)

29 Seaman Road 29 July 2008 (*survey Team*)

29 Seaman Road 4 August 2011 (*survey Team*)

20 PRM 7 August 1982 JT-(*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

Summer/Winter

2 Horn Island 9 July 1978 WW (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Both CBC s usually record 1 to 3 a year

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Solitary Sandpiper

Tringa solitaria

General Status

A common migrant , in spring from early March to early May and in fall from late July to mid October

Early/Late Dates Spring

Ocean Springs 20 February 1984 JS (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

Seaman Road 28 February 2001 G. Bieber (*pers. comm. to JSP*)
West Ship Island 28 May 1978 WW (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)
PRM 3 June 1977 JT (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-2*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Seaman Road 7 July 2011 (*Survey Team*)
Seaman Road 10 July 2014 (*Survey Team*)
Seaman Road-27 October 1999 (*Survey Team*)

Winter: one record

MSJC-16 Dec 2002

Numbers

24 Seaman Road 19 April 1994 (*Survey Team*)
24 Seaman Road 24 April 2014 (*survey Team*)
37 in one sq. mi of impoundments CataS 2 April 2005 NB (*ebird*)
45 Seaman Road 7 April 1993 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen LSUMZ

Greater Yellowlegs

Tringa melanoleuca

General Status

Has been recorded in every month but is primarily a common migrant March through May and late July through early November. More frequent inland than on beaches

Winter

MSJC Normal range 10-20
MSSH Normal Range 15-40

High Counts

325 CataS 27 March, 2007 NB (*ebird*)
525 Seaman Road 3 November 2011 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen LSUMZ

Willet

Tringa semipalmata

General Status

Mostly confined to beaches and coastal marshes, generally quite unusual even a short distance inland. Common to abundant in winter. Breeds regularly on the barrier islands, but only sparsely and locally on the mainland, e.g., 2-3 pairs defending territories Ansley Marshes June 2001-2004-NB (*unpubl. rec.*)

High Counts

350 Hancock waterfront after Hurricane Lili 3 October 2002 NB (*ebird*)
133 Harrison Co 8 February 2004 SD, WMD, DMc (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)
Typical CBC counts: MSSH 30 to 40; MSJC 50 to 265.

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Comment

1. Two species maybe involved, a view supported by a recent paper entitled Willet be one species or two? (*The Auk Volume 1332016 pp 593-614*)

2. A quick review of currently available information indicates that distinguishing the two may not be as simple as standard field guides indicate. For ID complexity and pitfalls, see “*which Willet?*” at ocean wanderers website and *Birding June 2006* 38: 340-47.

3. Our breeding population is “Eastern” Willet *Tringa s. semipalmata*. It winters entirely outside the U.S. Probably arrives here in early April and leaves by early August. Its main migration route is well to the east of us so we probably don’t get many transients.

Our winter population is “Western” Willet *Tringa s. inornata*. Probably arrives in late August and departs in late March. Transients are probably regular.

What really goes on is what you are supposed to be figuring out.

For routes, timing, etc, see BNA website and The Limpkin Vol 51 No 1 on line at Space Coast Aud Soc.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Tringa flavipes

General Status

An abundant migrant and regular winter visitor. Its times of passage and habitat preference are essentially as those of the Greater Yellowlegs though the Lesser is usually more numerous. In winter it is locally common in some places (e.g., Seaman Road) but rather scarce in others (e.g. Ansley marsh where it is outnumbered by the Greater. See also CBC results below) There are scattered summer records.

CBC Data

MSSH-less than ten in most years

MSJC-Normal range 30-60/year.

High Counts

600 CataS 17 April 2007 NB (*ebird*)

800 CataS 19 September 2006 NB (*ebird*)

1000+ PRM 28 March 1985 (*fide Troups and Jackson-no observer given*)

Documentation- Specimen USNM

[HOME](#)

JAEGERS, ALCIDS, GULLS, TERNS *Stercorariidae, Laridae*

JAEGERS

Occurrence- Data from Alabama indicate that Pomerine is the more frequent of the two well offshore, and Parasitic the one seen more often inshore. In Louisiana, Pomerine is the more frequent overall. (*See Dittman and Cardiff at the LA Orn. Soc. website and Annotated Pelagic List at the Alabama Orn. Soc. website.*) Status in Mississippi seems more in accord with Alabama but data are sparse.

Identification- The bewildering array of plumages and the often unfavorable circumstances of observation make jaegers a frustrating group. Dittman and Cardiff provide helpful information and references. (*A B C's of Jaeger ID LOS website*)

Pomarine Jaeger

Stercorarius pomarinus

Six records

Ship Island 16 July 1964 LEW, et al (*Stewart, 1964 Aud Field Notes*18:512-515)

BelleBeach 21 September 1991 CDC, et al. (*Schiefer, 1992 MK 22-2*)

Mississippi Sound 22 October 1992 TS (*Schiefer, 1992 MK 23-2*)
Off Jackson Co 10 November 1974 T Imhof (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)
Long Beach 24 January 1999 JB, JSP, JT, et al (*Schiefer, 2001 MK 31-1*)
Gulfport 4 June 2014 Injured bird, died in rehab. *Fide, NW (MBRC)*

Documentation-Needed

Parasitic Jaeger

Stercorarius parasiticus

General Status

A rare winter visitor, with about twenty sightings to date. Has been recorded from late August to early May but the majority are from October through December. Most are from the islands but in recent years there usually have been one or two each year from the mainland as well.

Documentation- Specimen MMNS.

Razorbill

Alca torda

One record

W. Ship Island 27 April 2013 OG. Found dead. Several photos taken but specimen not collected. There was an unprecedented incursion of this species into the southeast during preceding months.

Documentation- photographs MBRC Archives

Black-legged Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

Four records

Off Ocean Springs 28 October 1961 R.Anderle (*Turcotte and Webb, 1999*)

Off Pascagoula 21 March 1962 SC, HH, LEW (*Turcotte and Webb, 1999*)

Bay St L 19 December 1977 LG, et al. (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK8-2*)

Bellebeach 10 November 1983 MB, JT (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)

Comment

Since we tend to think of this species as a “winter” bird, the following should be of interest.

A 2007 summary of LA records by Justin Bosler indicates a scattering from mid November to late December. But the majority, ten as of the writing, were 15 April to 15 May. See *Picasa Web Albums –Justin’s Gallery*

Documentation- Photo MBRC archives

Sabine’s Gull

Xema sabini

Five records to date

Three miles WNW of Ship Island 14, July 1964 LEW, et al. (*Turcotte and Webb, 1999*)

Clermont Harbor 9 August 1988 MH, TS, JT (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Kiln 24 September 1989 GO, JT (*Toups and Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

West Ship Island 5-6 September 1993 JT, et al. (*Schiefer, 1994 MK 24-2*)

G. Jackson (*Am Birds*, 1994) lists the date as October 5-6, but JT (*pers. com.*) confirms it was September-JSP

Harrison Co 1 November 1998 JT (*pers. comm. To JSP*)

Documentation-Photograph No. *Am. Birds* 43: 114-120

Bonaparte's Gull

Chroicocephala philadelphia

General Status

Regular from early November to late March. Least numerous of the regular wintering gulls along the waterfront; largest concentrations (30-50) are usually found at WaveLag and Seaman Road

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 27 August 2015 (*Survey Team*)

Biloxi 1 October 2015 (*ACBS*)

Ship Island 19 May 1999 (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

PRM 21 May 1987 MH, JT (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

PRM 6 June 1979 MH, JT (*Jackson, 1979 MK 9-2*)

CBC Data

MSJC: Maximum, 392; normal range, 50-150

MSSH: Maximum 553; normal range 50-300.

High Counts

350 WaveLag 8 January 2007 NB (*ebird*)

400 WaveLag 1 December 1983 JT et al. (*Hodges, 1984 MK 14-2*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

[**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*]

Two sight records, one for 1997, the other for 1998, have been published elsewhere. The first was not accepted by MBRC. The second was never submitted to that organization. This species therefore does not meet the standards of acceptance to this list.

***Little Gull**

Hydrocoloeus minutus

One Acceptable To Date

PRM 21 May 1995 CD, DMc, et al (*Schiefer, 1995 MK 28-1*)

One Possible Sighting

Bay St Louis 19 September 2001 A close but very brief flyby of an apparent 2nd winter bird... I.D. was based to some extent on prior familiarity with shape and flight rather than the complete verification of all plumage characters warranted for such a rarity. There are up-state MS and western LA coast records. NB

Documentation -Needed

Laughing Gull

Leucophaeus atricilla

General Status

Abundant year round within the reach of tidal water. Counts of ca 2000 in one mile not unusual during migration (*ACBS Survey*)

Strays in small numbers to nearby fresh water. Only a few pairs actually nest within our Region

CBC Data

MSJC: Maximum-1408 in 1997-normal range 300-800

MSSH: Maximum 912 in 2002-normal range 200-500

High Counts

3000 Biloxi 1 October 2010 JW (*ebird*)

4000 Harrison Co beaches 23 February 1986 J. Holmes (*ebird*)

5200 Long Beach 25 August 2010 (*ACBS Survey*)

7000+ Harrison and Hancock beaches after Hurricane Juan 27 October 1985 MH, JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Franklin's Gull

Leucophaeus pipixcan

General Status

A regular fall migrant in small numbers mid October to early December, mostly to Hancock Co. Typical counts 1-8. Casual at other times.

High Counts at Peak Season

22 Bay St L 10 November 1980 single flock MH, JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

16 November 16, 2001- apparently a flock of arriving migrants southbound across the Ansley marshes toward the coast NB (*ebird*)

Spring 6-8 Reports, typical are

Jones Park, Harrison Co 13-18 March 2017(*ebird*)

Jones Park, Harrison Co 1-7 April 2017 Possibly the same individual as above (*ebird*)

28 March 1986 CD, MH, JT (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Biloxi 2 April 2009 JW (*ebird*)

2 Gulfport 3 May 2016 OG (*ebird*)

PRM 11 May 1981 JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

Summer

Jones Park 22 June-15 July 2017 (*ebird*)

Early Fall

Pascagoula 26 August 2016 BJ (*ebird*)

Gulfport 24 September 1990 JT, et al. (*Schiefer, 1991, MK 21-1*)

Bay St Louis 24 September 2007 NB (*ebird*)

2 Hancock Co 17 October 1987 WMD, JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Winter

MSJC 19 December 1981

Pascagoula Beach 27 December 2015-23 January 2016 m.ob. (*ebird*)

Texas Flat Road 6 March 1988 JPe, JT (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Documentation Specimen MMNS

Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

General Status

A common winter visitor throughout the three southern counties from early October through April and regular in small numbers through the summer. It is found only erratically further inland, mostly during migration.

CBC Data

MSJC: Maximum 1121- normal range 220-500

MSSH: Maximum 511- normal range 100-300

High Counts

500+ 2 April 1980-Jackson County (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

600 Eight miles Hancock Waterfront 2 February 2011 NB (*ebird*)

1500 Harrison Co Waterfront 16 February 1992 D. Forsythe (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

California Gull

Larus californicus

Five records to date.

MSJC 19 December 1987 LG, TGa (First year bird-photographed, *fide Turcotte and Webb, 1999*)

MSSH: December 28, 1998-The CBC site provides no details

Adult Pass Christian 14 March 1999 NM, JT, et al (*unpubl. rec.*)

25 November 2009 GB N/N. JW, MW (*ebird*)

12 December, 2009 Waveland-3rd Cycle (?) NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Photograph (*MBRC*)

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

General Status

A year round non breeding visitor to the waterfront, common from October through April. Rare inland at any time. Most waterfront birds are non-adult but concentrations of adults often found offshore in the sound.

Numbers

Typical eight miles Hancock beaches: winter, 30-60; summer 1-3 NB (*unpubl. recs.*)

42 adults MS Sound three-eight miles off Gulfport 2 April 2011 NB (*ebird*)

CBC Data

Both have maximum counts of 350+ and a normal range of 30-150

High Counts

70 Horn I 2 March 1978 WW (*ebird*)

275 12 miles Hancock beaches 17 January 2007 NB (*ebird*)

42 along 6 mile track 2 to 8 miles off Gulfport 2 April 2011 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Comment 1

Could be three or more species involved. The chances of any of the possible splits occurring in MS is quite remote, however if you enjoy puzzling through complexities try some of the links listed at the "ocean wanderers" web site.

Comment 2

Herring x Kelp Gull hybrid

The first well documented individual of this rare hybrid for MS (aka Chandeleurs Gull) was found at Gulfport following Tropical Storm Cindy 21 June 2017 Abby Darrah, Bryan White. Photos (*ebird*)

Iceland Gull

Larus glaucoides

Four records to date of *L.g. thayeri*

Pass Christian 5 February 1988 GM, JT (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

off Horn Island 24-25 October 2004 SD, DMc (For super shots of a pale-plumaged juvenile see SD's photos *MOS website*.)

GB N/N 25 February, 2009 JW (*ebird*)

Hancock Co Waterfront 8 January 2015 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Photograph-MBRC Archives

One record to date of *L.g.kumlieni*

1-2 Individuals were seen virtually daily from 9 December 2017 and 5 February between Pass Christian and Bat St Louis and once at Gulfport.

9 December Pass Christian one unidentified bird RP and LM

17 December Pass Christian two birds ID confirmed as *L. g. kumlieni* BJ and BW

2 January Pass Christian Last report of two together at this site OG

7 January Pass Christian Last report this site HC

28 January Gulfport, Jones Park One bird HC

15 January First report at Bay St Louis. One bird

4 February Last report at Bay St Louis MS

Documentation Photographs (*MBRC, ebird*)

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

General Status

Has increased enormously in eastern North America in recent years. The first Mississippi record was at Gulfport, 2-31, March 1983 MB, JT, et al. (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*). Historically, birds would appear December to March, often remaining for considerable lengths of time. The time frame seems to be expanding. Currently, allowing for duplication, there are 1-3 sightings annually.

Earliest (both immediately following Hurricane *Gustav*)

Waveland/Bay ST Louis 14 September 2008 DS (*Missbird*)

5 Bayou Caddy 2 September 2008 (photographed) SE (*Schiefer, 2008 MK 39-2*)

Latest

Waveland 21 April 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Two summer records

14 July 2004 MS Sound SD (*unpubl. rec*)

Waveland 3 July 2013 NB (*ebird*)

High Count

6 vicinity of Horn Island 24-25 October 2004 SD, DMc (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

Documentation-Photograph-MBRC Archives

Glaucous Gull

Larus hyperboreus

There are about a 15 records to date, most of them from Harrison Co. in January and February. Of those identified to age, none were adult. Often lingers for considerable lengths of time, e.g., one present at Gulfport from 23 February through 21 April 1992 (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

Earliest Harrison Co 31 October 1989. V. Langham (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Latest Gulfport 7-12 May 2010 M. Barnett, et al (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

General Status

Until a few years ago there were only about ten records. Most were from Harrison Co. mid December to mid March. Has increased its breeding range considerably in recent years. Now annual here in winter Majority of reports still from Harrison Co. None to date from Hancock

Occasional in warmer months Examples:

Deer Island I 13 September 2010 DM, JW (*ebird*)

Jones Park 10 August 2011 M.Mahaffey, et al, photo (*ebird*)

Biloxi 11-13 August 2016 HC, LJ, MW photo (*ebird*)

Documentation-Photograph MBRC Archives

Comment

A normal surface water temperature above 16C may be a factor in limiting any significant further expansion of breeding range (see *BNA-GBBG-Distribution*)

Brown Noddy

Anous stolidus

About a dozen sightings over the years, all following tropical disturbances. (A desiccated carcass found on Horn Island is assumed to be in the same category).

First Record

Gulfport 20 September 1961 found dead by M. Baker after Hurricane *Carla* and secured by HH (*Clawson, MOS newsletter 6(5):9*)

Jackson and Cooley, 1980 and *King, 1985* show the year for this record as 1957. The original *MOS newsletter note* states 1961. *Carla* occurred September 9-12, 1961

High Count

2 Graveline Beach 2 Gulf Park. 1-3 September 2011 following T.S. *Lee*. photos JW, et al (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen-MMNS

Sooty Tern

Onychoprion fuscatus

General Status

Not unusual after tropical disturbances (well over thirty reports, one as far inland as Wiggins, Stone County). Known to nest erratically on the north Gulf coast, though not confirmed for MS.

Early/Late Dates

The two earliest reports in recent years. Neither seem to be associated with any weather disturbance.

Sand Island 27 July 2004 Photographed SD (*MOS website*)

W. Ship I, 10 June 2015 E. Enbody. Photo. (*ebird*)

3 Biloxi to Hancock Co 29 October 1985 following Hurricane Elena MH, JT, et al (*King, Toups and Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

High Counts

“flocks” returning to sea Biloxi Back Bay 26 September 2002 Hurricane *Isadore*-BD (*pers com to SJP*)

12 to 15 Bay St Louis 3 October 2002 Hurricane *Lili* NB (*Knight, 2002 MK 33-1*)

12 BelleBeach 1 September 2008 Hurricane *Gustav* JW (*ebird*)

Flocks 15-20 many locales coast wide 1-3 September 2011 T.S. *Lee* Doubtless some duplication m. ob. (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Bridled Tern

Onychoprion anaethetus

General Status

About ten records to date. All but one were known to be in connection with tropical disturbances. One picked up dead may have been a casualty of the previous season.

Desiccated carcass Harrison Co 26 May 1979 MH (*Hays, 1979 MK 9-2*)

7-8 Harrison and Jackson Cos 2 September 1985. Hurricane *Elena* MH, JT, et al (*Toups, Hodges and King, 1985 MK 15-2*)

9 Harrison Co. 29 October 1985 Hurricane *Juan* photographed MH (*Toups, Hodges and King, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Biloxi Back Bay 26 September 2002 Hurricane *Isadore* BD (*pers com to JSP*)

WaveLag 3 October 2002 Hurricane *Lili* NB (*Knight, 2002 MK 33-1*)

20+ coast wide 3-4 September 2011 T.S. *Lee* m.ob (*ebird*)

Graveline Beach 31 August 2012 Hurricane *Isaac*-JW (*ebird*)

Biloxi to Bay St Louis 21-22 June 2017 3-4 individuals AD, OG, JL, BW, et al. Photos (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Least Tern

Sternula antillarum

General Status

Formerly abundant and still common summer resident from mid April to early September.

Early/Late Dates

5 Hancock waterfront 17 March, 2012 SE, J.Walko, NB, et al (*ebird*)

“coast” 24 March 2001 JT (*pers comm. to JSP*)

West Ship Is 25 March 2015 J. Sipiora (*ebird*)

3-4 Wavelag 26 September 2002 Hurricane *Isadore* NB (*Knight, 2002 MK 33-1*)

Gulfport 6 October 2002 BD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Winter

2 Davis Bayou 15 February 2009 S. Davis photos (*ebird*)

Breeding

The world famous breeding colonies on the Harrison Co. beaches which totaled about 5,000 pairs in 1983 (*Jackson and Jackson, Colonial Waterbirds, 1985:54-62*)

dwindled to about 2000 pairs from 1995 to 2005. (*Mueller, 1995 MK 25-1 and Dinsmore, MMNS Tech Report 113*) By 2007 it was down to ca 600 pairs (*fide, JD*).

There has been some recovery since then:

2011 1600 pairs in 14 sites (*ACBS*)

2013 1000 pairs in six sites (*ACBS*)

2015 1898 pairs in 22 sites (*ACBS*)

2017 1585 pairs but fledged only 114 young due to heavy rains in May and TS Cindy on 20 June.

Scattered pairs breed sporadically elsewhere, including a few on fresh water impoundments in Hancock Co.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Gull-billed Tern

Gelochelidon nilotica

General Status

Occurs from late March to mid September. Has increased markedly in the past few years. Breeds commonly on the islands and locally in small numbers on the mainland (GB N/N; Ansley). Frequent as a migrant.

Early/Late Dates

3 West Ship Island 26 February, 1979 JT, et al (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Lakeshore 1 November 1989 NB (*ebird*)

Winter

Hancock Co 19 December 1977 LG, SP (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

4 MSJC 15 December, 1973

Pascagoula Beach 6 February 2013 G. Davis (*ebird*)

Numbers

60 nests Sand Island 2005 (*Dinsmore, MMNS Tech Report 113*)

113 Seaman Road 14 May 2016 (*Survey team*)

250 Seaman Road 6 May 2017 (*Survey team*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Caspian Tern

Hydroprogne caspia

General Status

Occurs year round along the coast, but most numerous in migration and winter. Nests sparingly in extensive marsh areas (e.g. Ansley) formerly on Petit Bois Island (late 1960's)

CBC Data

MSJC Normal range, 40-80

MSSH Normal range, 20-50

High Counts

85 Singing River Is 19 October 2014 (*ACBS*)

124 Round Is. 24 September 2017 (ACBS)
Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

General Status

Occurs on the mainland mostly as a common migrant from mid April to late May and mid August to early October

Large numbers of non breeding birds, mostly immatures, summer on the barrier islands.

The No.Am. population breeds in the northern prairies and winters on the coasts of southern middle America and South America. In spring, adults return to the breeding grounds but immatures move north only to the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. They normally arrive in late May. *See Black Tern, migration, winter, in BNA.*

Early/Late Dates

Bayou Cassotte 25 March 1979 JT, et al. (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-1*)

Hancock Co 15 April 1986 T (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Gulfport 6 November 2000 JSP (*unpubl. rec.*)

Jackson Co 16 November 1987 MB, JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

PRM 30 November 1986 MH, TS (*Jackson and Hodges, 1986 MK 16-2*)

High Counts

1500 Sand Island 23 June 2004 SD (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

2000 West Ship I. 7 September 2003 OG (*ebird*)

ca 2500 Ocean Springs to Hancock Co. T.S. Lee 3-4 September 2011 m.ob. (*ebird*)

6000 Horn Island 2 August 1987 CD, JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

***Roseate Tern**

Sterna dougallii

The following two sight records are the only reports for Mississippi

3 Gulfport 11 and 15 March 1976 JI, JT

Waveland 11 March 1977 JT, Mike and Carol Newton

.Documentation-Needed

Comment

These sightings, which appear in *Toups and Jackson, 1987* and *Turcotte and Webb, 1999*, presumably form the basis for the inclusion of this species on the MS state list. There are no accepted records for Louisiana (*Dittman and Cardiff LOS website*) and only three hypothetical reports for Alabama. (*Mobile Bay Aud Checklist.*). The MS dates are about one month earlier than normal U.S. returns.

This tern certainly should always be in the back of one's mind but first digest as fully as possible the wealth of information by Dittman and Cardiff available at the *Louisiana Orn. Soc. Website*

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

General Status

On the mainland a somewhat erratic migrant, mid April through May and mid August to early October. Has recently nested in small numbers on the islands e.g., 20-30 pairs in 2014 - 2017 on W Ship Is.

Early/Late Dates

West Pascagoula River 5 March 1987 CD, JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Ship Island 26 March, 1987 MB, CD, JT (*pers. comm. CD to SJP*)

Gulfport 4 October 2002 BD (*pers. comm. to SJP*)

Gulfport 19 November 2000 JT (*pers. comm. to SJP*)

Hancock Co 25 November 1989 NB (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Graveline Beach 8 December 2014 J.Wright, et al (*ebird*)

Hancock Co. 31 December 2003 W. Cook (*ebird*)

Winter

There are unquestionably valid winter reports on the North Gulf Coast from Alabama to Louisiana. But normally winters south of the U.S. and some reports seem doubtful. For instance. between the mid 1970's and the early 1990's it was reported fifteen times on MSJC and ten times on MSSH with counts as high as 9 to 13 birds. Thereafter reports virtually ceased on both counts. What changed? Population dynamics or ID criteria?

High Counts

121 Horn Island 23 June 2004 SD (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

100 Horn Island 23 September 1987 JT et al (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

100 Round Island 21 September 2017 (*ACBS*)

110Cat Island 19 June 2017 R.Newman (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

[Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*]

A September report from Gulfport of a "possible" sighting was never submitted to MBRC nor published elsewhere .It would be an extreme rarity. The eastern No. Am. population of this species migrates primarily off the Atlantic coast in fall. There are probably less than a dozen records for the entire Gulf of Mexico at that season. Spring sightings are more likely. There are confirmed records from no. MS and we certainly should be watching for it on the coast.

Forster's Tern

Sterna forsteri

General Status

Abundant year round on the coast. Nest sparsely in the coastal marshes and around brackish ponds... Occasionally strays inland.

Breeding

From 1 to 3 pairs CataS 2004-2011 NB (*unpubl. recs.*)

CBC Data

Maxima, both counts, around 500; normal range 100-300.

High Counts

500 Ocean Springs 30 September 1978 WW (*ebird*)

1310 Long Beach-Pass Christian 13 April 2016 (*ACBS*)

2200 Harrison Co Waterfront 14 October 2012 R. Dobbs (*ebird*)

4000+ Hancock Co. 30 October 1984 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*) Authors provide no details. However NWS records indicate that Tropical Depression 17 made landfall in se MS at that time. 75-300/12 miles is more typical of season/place

CBCs:

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Royal Tern

Thalasseus maximus

General Status

A common year round resident on the islands and mainland waterfront but quite unusual even a short way in from the beaches.

Breeding

851 nests Round Island 26 June 2017 (*ACBS*)

2927 nests Sand Island 2005 season (*Dinsmore, MMNS Tech Report No. 113*)

CBC Data

Normal range, both counts, past thirty-five years-30 to 125. No significant trends.

High Counts

1480 Round Island 5 September 2017 (*ACBS*)

~ 2000 Ocean Springs 1-7 September 1977 R.Russell (*Weber and Jackson, 1978 MK 8-1*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Sandwich Tern

Thalasseus sandvicensis

General Status

Breeds in great numbers on the islands. Occurs on the mainland in spring as a sparse migrant late March to late May and in fall as a common post-breeding visitor and migrant late August to late October.

Most maritime of the coastal terns. The only reports even a mile or two inland are a few following tropical storms

Early/Late Dates

Graveline Beach 12 February 2014 (*ACBS*)

2 GBN/N 13 March 2009 JW (*ebird*)

2 Gravelaine Beach 13 March 2017 A. Anholt (*ebird*)

3 Pascagoula 17 March 1962 LEW (*Gandy and Turcotte, 1970*)

23 Deer I. 23 November 2010 JW (*ebird*)

Petit Bois I 25 November 1989 MH (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Long Beach 1 December 1985 MH (*Jackson 86, MK 16-1*)

Breeding

18,246 nests-Sand Island-season 2005 (*Dinsmore, MMNS Tech Report No. 113*)

1032 nests Round Island 26 June 2017 (*ACBS*)

CBC Data

2 MSJC 15 December 1973

MSJC 25 December 1997

MSJC 30 December 1984

High Counts

131 Horn Island 25 October 2004 SD (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

400-Hancock waterfront 6 July 2005 following a tropical disturbance-NB (*ebird*)
355 W. Ship I 29 August 2011 C. Boeh, M.C.H. Boeh (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Comment

On June 30, 2005, Dinsmore observed a probable Sandwich Tern x Elegant Tern hybrid on Sand Island (*Purrrington, No.Am. Birds 59-4:608-610*) There are a remarkable number of instances of mixed pairs, hybrids, etc for these species. For a good selection of sightings and photographs worldwide, plug “Sandwich Tern x Elegant Tern hybrid” into Google and follow the various links.

Black Skimmer

Rhynchops niger

General Status

Common year round along the waterfront. Regularly visits fresh water impoundments in small numbers.

High Counts

A remarkable concentration occurred on the Harrison Co. beaches, late fall of 2011.

30 November ~3500 MM; 1 December ~2500-NB (*ebird*)

Breeding

Declining as a nesting species on the mainland coast.

73 pairs two mainland colonies 1994 (*Mueller, 1995 MK 25-1*)

335 pairs in five mainland colonies and 193 pairs on Sand and Horn Islands 2005 (*Dinsmore, MMNS Tech Report 113*)

No mainland nests located 2007 JD (*unpubl. rec.*)

2011 272 pairs single colony Biloxi MD et al (*in print*)

2015 53 pairs in 4 sites (ACBS)

2017 One unsuccessful attempt

CBC Data

Usual totals on both counts vary considerably 2 or 3 to 200+. Maximum 1250 MSJC 17 December 1977.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

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PIGEONS, CUCKOOS *Columbidae, Cuculidae*

Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)

Columba livia

General Status

Though invariably listed as “common”, the Rock Pigeon is a true commensal restricted to urban areas particularly in the immediate vicinity of the coast... One can spend many hours in the field without seeing one.

CBC Data

MSJC: Normal range, thirty years; 100-300/year. No discernible trend

MSSH: Normal range, thirty years; 50-100/year. No discernible trend

High Counts

300 D'Iberville, Harrison Co 5 February 2017 L.Chapman (*ebird*)

400 PRM 25 February 1979 WW (*ebird*)

Documentation- photograph (R.Hare, fide Toups and Jackson)

White-crowned Pigeon

Patagioenas leucocephala

One record

Gautier present at a feeder 29 March to 10 May, 2006-LE, m.ob. (*Wallace, 2006 No.Am. birds 60-3*)

Documentation- photograph-MBRC Archives

***Band-tailed Pigeon**

Patagioenas fasciata

One sight record

Petit Bois Island 2 December 1978 Well described by experienced observers CDC, JJ, BS (*Cooley, Jackson, Schardien, Swan, 1979 MK 9-1*)

Documentation- Needed

Eurasian Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

General Status

The following account by JSP (2004) details the explosive invasion of this species. *First state record was one on Greenwood Island, Jackson County on July 1, 1991 by JRW, followed closely by three at Pascagoula on November 9, 1991 (G. Jackson 1992; Schiefer 1992). These were initially considered likely "escapees" by some. (Purrington, 1991) listed the July 1 record as "probable", but they rapidly spread and within a decade literally hundreds inhabit the Mississippi gulf coast and are rapidly expanding northward. An interesting report of "Ringed Turtle-Dove" at a Gulfport feeder March 2, 1986 (J. Jackson 1986b) may have been this species. Field guides at that time didn't recognize the distinction between those two look-alike species, primarily because the collared-dove had yet to become prominent in the North American birding scene. The collared-dove probably first occurred in south Florida in the early 1980s, probably arising from the escaped Bahaman populations of the 1970s (Smith 1987; Romagosa and McEaney 2000). One caveat against the "misidentification hypothesis" is the presence of a Ringed Turtle-Dove and several Eurasian Collared-Doves both on the coast in 1992 (Schiefer 1993) once everyone was well aware of the differences.*

Currently, it is well established in the northern tier as well as on the coast. It suffered a severe setback in sw Hancock due to Hurricane *Katrina* but seems to be recovering

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 6-14; Ben 4/6 1-4; Nic 3/6 6-11; Lat 5/6 1-3

CBC Data

MSJC: Normal range, 10-50/year

MSSH: Normal range, 20-70/year

High Counts

37 Biloxi 10 January 2012 L. Gardella (*ebird*)

42 Lake Mars Ocean Springs 19 September 2015 (*ACBS*)

[Passenger Pigeon *Ectopistes migratorius*]

The Passenger Pigeon nested in at least one locale in northern MS (on the Tombigbee north of Columbus (*Turcotte and Watts, 1999*). Per *BNA* it “wintered to the Gulf Coast” but there does not seem to be any specific records for the six county region].

Inca Dove

Columbina inca

Formerly considered an accidental, with only two old records:

Pass Christian 8 April 1996 BM (*Schiefer, 1998 MK 28-2*)

WaveLag 5 October, 2002 BD (*pers comm. to JSP*)

Current Status

In September 2007, a few birds showed up in Pass Christian (M Ryan)-and in 2008 others were reported at Van Cleave and Gautier. (G. Young; C. Green)

As of January 2010, the Pass Christian population was well established, with counts of as high as 12 (30 November 2009 M Ryan) and verified as nesting.

On 3 April 2010 two adults with two volant young were seen in Waveland JW, et al (*ebird*). Subsequently, has been observed in various locations in all counties.

Documentation-Photos: MBRC Archives

Common Ground-Dove

Columbina passerina

General Status

Though listed as rare in *BCM*, the ground-dove is actually fairly frequently encountered in the northern tier. There is also indication of an influx from the west in the fall. Sixty percent of reports between 1974 and 1987 occurred between October 7 and December 30 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*). See also, below.

Breeding

First state record George Co 18-28 June 1995 CC, LJ, et al.-photographed (*Schiefer, 1998 MK 28-1*)

Adults with young seen regularly during late spring and early summer at various locales in Hancock and Pearl River Cos. NB (*unpubl. recs.*)

CBC Data

recorded a total of fourteen times, both counts combined. Usually 2 to 3 per tally.

High Counts

30+ George Co 9 March 1995. CD, LJ, et al. (*Schiefer, 1998 MK 28-1*)

11 in tight flock 8 November 2004 CataS NB (*ebird*).

CBCs:

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

White-winged Dove

Zenaida asiatica

General Status

In the past several years the White-winged Dove has become firmly established as a permanent resident from Pascagoula west to Gulfport. Elsewhere it is still known primarily as a fall visitor from the west though a pair may have nested at Ansley, Hancock Co in 2017..

High Counts Breeding season

28 James Hill Park, Gulfport 14 April 2016 OG (*ebird*)

40 Greenwood Is. 21 June 2015 BJ (*ebird*)

High Counts Migration/Winter

122 PRMCP 3 January 2015 MW, et al (*ebird*)

125 Pascagoula 13 February 1995 CD, LJ (*Schiefer, 1995 MK 28-1*)

Several hundred moving east in small flocks Heron Bay 4-19 November 2000 (including about 150 in an hour on the 4th and 750/day on the 8th NB (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*))

Documentation-Photograph MSU

Mourning Dove

Zenaida macoura

General Status

An abundant permanent resident everywhere except areas of extensive woodland.

High Counts

200+, Hancock Co 20 June 1985 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

433 Seaman Road 2 September 2004 (*Survey Team*)

503 Seaman Road 23 August 2012 (*Survey Team*)

BBS Data

All routes; 6/6 29-47

CBC Data

Usual range of both counts-200 to 600/year

Documentation-Specimen USNM

Smooth-billed Ani

Crotophaga ani

Two records

Pascagoula 18 October 2016 BJ photo BJ Originally reported as Groove-billed Ani. Re-examination of photos in December 2017 confirmed it to be Smooth-billed. (*ebird*).

Biloxi 4 November HC photo. Remained until 15 November, m.ob. Photos and recordings (*ebird*)

Documentation Photograph and Recording (*MBRC archives*)

Groove-billed Ani

Crotophaga sulcirostris

General Status

A rare visitor from early October to mid February. By far the majority of sightings occur in the first four weeks or so of this period. May go unrecorded for a period of years then show up annually for several more. E.g. in sw Hancock: annual 1985-1990; none 1991-2002; 1-2 annually 2003 through 2009, none 2010-2011 3 in 2012, then a total of only 4, 2013-2017.

Early/Late Dates

Biloxi 8 September 1986 H. Slack (*Jackson and Hodges, 1986 MK 16-2*)

Pascagoula 30 September 2009 JW (*ebird*)

Van Cleave 2-20 February 1999 KK, m.ob. (*Schiefer, 2001 MK 31-1*)

High Counts

9 Harrison Co 23 October 1987 DH (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

(State record-most sightings are one to two birds.)

Documentation Photograph MSU

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Coccyzus americanus

General Status

A summer resident from mid April to mid October, common as a breeder and often abundant as a migrant.

Early/Late Dates

Bellebeach 28 March 2009 JW (*ebird*)

Bellebeach 30 March 1980 TGA, et al. (*Jackson and Schardien, 1980 MK 10-1*)

Davis Bayou 31 March 2011 JW (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 1 April 1999 (*Survey Team*)

Hancock Co 7 November 2001 J. Berry (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 7 November 2002 (*Survey Team*)

Turkey Creek, Gulfport 7 November 2015 JR, et al (*ebird*)

Gulfport 26 November 1985 JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Seaman Road 6 December 2002 BD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Gautier 9 January 2000 CD LE (*pers comm. to JSP*)

BBS Data

All routes 6/6 2-15

High Counts

25 Singing River I 16 April 2016 JH, JR (*ebird*)

26 Seaman Road 17 October 2002 (*Survey Team*)

37 CataS September 2006 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Black-billed Cuckoo

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus

General Status

A rare migrant from late April to late May and mid August to late October. All sightings have been of singles

Early/Late Dates

Greenw I 12 April 2008 GK, et al. (*Schiefer, 2008 MK 39-2*)

Long Beach 14 April 2016 MS (*ebird*)

Biloxi 16 April 1989 P Dunne, JT (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

West Ship I. 31 May 1977 Island-R. Russell (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-2*)

Logtown 21 August 2004 NB (*ebird*)

ORWMA 25 August 2013 NB (*ebird*)

Poplarville 3 November 2016 JL Photo (*ebird*)

Horn Island 4 November 1980 JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

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BARN OWLS, OWLS *Tytonidae, Strigidae*

Barn Owl

Tyro alba

General Status

Though not as often encountered by chance as the other large owls, this species is not too difficult to find if searched for methodically in the proper habitat.

Breeding

Two, perhaps three, pairs nested regularly at Heron Bay prior to Hurricane *Katrina*. At least two birds were killed by the storm (carcasses found, photographed-NB) and all nest sites were destroyed. However birds as nearby as CataS are still on site.

Numbers

Five in about 25 miles northern Pearl River Co. during first three post-sunset hours 12 February 2007. NB (*unpubl. rec.*)

Documentation-Specimen USNM

Eastern Screech-Owl

Megascops asio

General Status

Considered by *Toups and Jackson, 1987*, as a common and widespread permanent resident “as likely to be found in settled neighborhoods as in remote woodlands” CBC data would seem to indicate a distinct decline since then. But A long-term study in Texas in suburban and rural habitats (*Gehlbach, 1994*) found cycles, not linear trends, suggested that these cycles may be mistaken for declines, and concluded that long term negative human impacts on this species as a whole are doubtful

Breeding

Henleyfield, 2007 5 pairs in about 8 square miles of woodland, farms and scattered residential.

CBC Data

1980’s: MSJC-10-20/year; MSSH-20-30/year.

1990’s: MSJC-6-13/year; MSSH-7-8/year.

2000’s: MSJC-1-3/year; MSSH-1-13/year

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Great Horned Owl

Bubo virginianus

General Status

A fairly common permanent resident through a wide variety of habitat, often in close proximity to human habitations. (Watch your small pets).

CBC Data

Both the past thirty+ years have typically recorded three to five/year, occasionally as many as eight to ten.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Burrowing Owl

Athene cunicularia

In the late ‘30’s-early’40’s Burleigh (1944) collected 3 and observed others. His account reads “*Although uncommon...apparently of regular occurrence ...in winter*”

There were no further reports until the following in the late ‘70’s to early ‘80’s.

Horn Island 15 October 1978 CDC, JJ et al. (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Gulfport 31 October 1978 JT (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

MSJC 16 December 1978

West Ship I 25 February 1979 CDC, JJ (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-1*)

Ship Island 28 January 1980 JJ, JT, et al (*Jackson and Schardien, 1980 MK 10-1*)

Biloxi 11 January 1983 D. Dahlke (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)

Only one report since then:

Biloxi 22 April 2003 picked up live and died in rehab. The disposition of the specimen is not known.

Comment

The BUOW may possibly be split in the future. Both U.S. taxa (*floridana* “Florida” and *hypugaea* “Western”) are well known as long distant vagrants. Under some circumstances they are distinguishable in the field.

Burleigh identified his specimens as hypugaea. None of the six sight reports, or the 2003 specimen were identified to subspecies.

Documentation-Photograph MSU

Barred Owl

Strix varia

General Status

Overall a fairly common permanent resident numerous in heavily wooded bottomlands but rather scarce in some other habitats. (E.g., only noted at Ansley four or five times in eighteen years-NB, NM).

CBC Data

Results are virtually the same as for Great Horned Owl. Three to five/year, occasionally as many as 10-12

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus

General Status

A winter visitor from mid October to mid March. Considered casual in *BCM*, it is now seen with some degree of frequency in the GB N/N area (JW) and across the northern tier of counties (NB). Probably best regarded as locally rare but regular in small numbers.

Early/Late Dates

Pascagoula 15 October 1940 (*Gandy and Turcotte, 1970*)

MSCNWR 20 March 2013 P. Carter (*ebird*)

PortBien 25 March 1988 CC, GM, JT (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

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NIGHTJARS, SWIFTS *Caprimulgidae, Apodidae*

Lesser Nighthawk

Chordeiles acutipennis

Two Records

Heron Bay 28-30 October, 2004 NB, SD, DMc, et al. (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

Grand Bay 29 October 2010 found dead JW (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Common Nighthawk

Chordeiles minor

General Status

A common but somewhat localized summer resident from late April to mid September.

Early/Late Dates

PortBien 5 and 8-9 March 1987 JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Biloxi 2 April, 2007 C. Sullivan

Ocean Springs 3 April 2012 JW (*ebird*)

Gautier 8 April 1999 CD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Keesler AFB 11 April 2000 JSP (*Knight, 2001 MK 31-2*)

Bellebeach 13 October 1960 LEW (*Gandy and Turcotte, 1970*)

Hiller Park Biloxi 21 October 1994 D.

100+ Gulfport 28 October 1984 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Lake Mars, Jackson Co 31 October Y. Haughney, M. Stewart (*ebird*)

Winter

In December 2007, an unidentified *Chordeiles* was seen on the MSSH on the 18th and a definite **Common** seen and heard on MSJC on the 21st (MW). Additional sightings were noted in neighboring states in the same time period.

High Counts

Flocks of 50 to 100 + are frequently seen in late August or early September. The October 28 date above is quite remarkable.

250 West Ship I 1 May 2015 NB (*ebird*)

Breeding

Distribution is erratic. Regular on the islands, along the edge of coastal marshes in Hancock Co. and in Desoto NF, but scarce or absent from seemingly suitable habitat in many inland locations...

50 (pairs? Individuals?) Horn Is 17 June 1976 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

6-8 pairs yearly-Ansley-NB (*unpubl. recs.*) In 2007 a pair nested on the concrete pad of a *Katrina*-destroyed dwelling.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Chuck-will's-widow

Antrostomus carolinensis

General Status

A common summer resident in the northern tier but rather local south of I-10.

Early/Late Dates

Ansley 18 March 2013 NB (*ebird*)

3 Henleyfield 21 March 2014 calling NB (*ebird*)

Jackson Co 27 March 2007 NW (*ebird*)

Gulfport 4 April 2001 AM (*pers. comm.*)

Ansley 12 November 1989 NB (*Schiefer, 1990 20-1*)

Breeding

12 in five miles Pearl River Co May-June, 2007 NB (*unpubl. rec.*)

30 DeSoto NF 19 April 2012 JW (*ebird*)

32 Jackson and Harrison Cos 30 July 1977. (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Winter

There are a few December records-latest 28 December 1988-Ansley-NB (*ebird*)

A January report from Horn Island (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*) is incorrect. See Whip-poor-will.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Eastern Whip-poor-will

Antrostomus vociferous

General Status

Doubtless a regular migrant in April and October to early November but most pass through undetected.

Early/Late Dates-Spring

Ward Bayou 1 March, 2009 Tyler Davis (*ebird*)

may well have been wintering rather than an early migrant.

Gulfport 27 March 1979 JiS, JT (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-1*)

“coast” 6 May 1996 CD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Though generally thought to be silent during its spring passage, there are now several recent reports of vocalizing birds. For example:

Bay St Louis 27 March 2005 Jill Mack (*pers. comm.*)

Moss Point 19 April 2007 JW (*ebird*)

DeSoto Natl Forest 24 April 2009 NB, DM (*ebird*)

Early /Late Dates-Fall

Ansley 18 September 1992 JT (*Schiefer, 1993 23-2*)

Gulfport 3 December 1985 JT (*Jackson, 1986 MK 16-1*)

Winter

7-8 late December records from islands and coastal cheniers

1 Horn Island 17 January 1978 WW. Per observer, Listed in error as **Chuck-will's-widow** in Mississippi Kite (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Chimney Swift

Chaetura pelagica

General Status

A common summer resident from mid March to mid October.

Early/Late Dates

Jackson Co 24 February 1991 CD, LE (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

LPRWMA 4 March 2001 BD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

BelleBeach 10 March 1983 JT (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)

Moss Point 12 March 2006 C.Kelley (*ebird*)

Jackson Co 6 November 1993 CD, et al. (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Harrison Co 30 November 1985 H. Slack (*Hodges 1985, MK 15-2*) See comments

High Counts

300 Seaman Road 2 October 2003 (*Survey Team*)

320 Seaman Road 2 October 2003 (*Survey Team*)

500 West Ship I 7 September 2013 OG (*ebird*)

BBS Data

Cyb, Ben 6/6 5-22; Nic 6/6 7-28; Lat 6/6 2-10

Documentation-Specimen USNM

Comment 1

30 November observation. The possibility of Vaux's suggests itself. In that regard, a swift was seen at dusk at PRM 29 November 1961 by HH (*MOS Newsletter Vol 7, 1962*). Based on the date, it was presumed by the observer to be "probably Vaux's" a conclusion that seems in accord with available data from LA (*ebird*.) Further reflections on the possibility of Vaux's Swift in MS can be found in 'Birds to Watch For # 6, October 2011'. It appeared in *eSkimmer*, maintained by the MS Coast Audubon Society.

Comment 2

The Pascagoula River Audubon Center at Moss Point has a camera set up in a nest box that allows one to watch the nesting activity

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HUMMINGBIRDS Trochilidae

NOTE- Unless specifically noted as a sight record, all hummingbird references are to birds identified in the hand and banded. These latter are also the basis of any conclusions regarding season or abundance. In the lists of observers, the initials of the bander are preceded by "b."

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Archilochus colubris

General Status

A common summer resident from late March to early October. Found regularly at feeders in the winter. There are now records for every month of the year.

Early/Late Dates (presumed migrants)

All are sight records of adult males.

Diamondhead 24 February 2008 S. Bogart (*unpubl. rec.*)

Pass Christian 25 February 2001 DB, JB (*unpubl. rec.*)

Biloxi February 27 2000 GM (*unpubl. rec.*)

Gautier 3 March, 1997 CD (*unpubl. rec.*)

ClowerT 20 October 2003 BD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

BBS Data

Cyb 5/6 1-2; Nic 2/6 1-2; Ben, Lat 0

High Counts

25 to 30 Logtown 25 April 1997 NB (*unpubl. rec.*)

50 Perkinston, Harrison Co. 20 September 2012 J. Morris (*ebird*)

60 Singing River I 16 April 2016 JH, JR (*ebird*)

Doubtless there higher spring counts.

Some idea of the number that pass through a single point in fall can be seen in these total of birds banded by BC at a single station in Carriere in 1996: 64 20 July; 75 August 10; 46 August 17 (*Schiefer, 1998 MK 28-2*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Black-chinned Hummingbird

Archilochus alexandri

General Status

Banding has proven it to be a regular winter visitor. But in many plumages distinguishing it in the field from the Rubythroat is extremely difficult. Beware of taking the merely suggestive to be definitive. There is a photo in *No Am Birds 61:1 181* that illustrates some fine points.

Early/Late Dates

Adult male Gulfport 5 October 1993 through 4 April 1994. Banded RS and MaS 3 December, 1993.

Pearl River Co 4 April 2015 RP (*ebird*)

Numbers

Normally two to four are present each year.

Documentation- Banding records

Anna's Hummingbird

Calypte anna

Four documented and one sight record to date

Bay St Louis 21 December 1994 to late January 1995 first state record LS, JT “b” RS (*Schiefer, 1995 MK 25-2*)

Pass Christian 9 December 1995 to April 1996 BM, “b”BC (*Schiefer, 1998 MK 28-1*)

Bay St Louis 22 December 2005 DB, JB, “b” MMy (*Cooley, 2006 No.Am. Birds 60-2*)

Biloxi 15 January to 2 February 2011 m.ob. “b”J.Bell (*ebird*)

Pass Christian 3 February 2011 R and A Zuleeg “b”J.Bell (*MBRC*)

Henleyfield 8-31 December 2006 .sight record NB, D.Burge (*ebird*)

Documentation- Banding records

Broad-tailed Hummingbird

Selasphorus platycercus

13 documented records

First state record. Henleyfield 1 January through 16 February 1994 D.Burge m.ob. “b”RS and MSa (*Schiefer, 1995 MK 25-2*)

Longest stay and latest departure Pass Christian 9 December 1995 to 21 April 1996 “b” BC (*Schiefer, 1998 MK 28-1* and *MK 28-2*).

Earliest Arrival. Waveland 8 December 1999 to 31 March, 2000 JB, TG et al (*Schiefer, 2000 MK 31-1*)

Documentation- Banding records

Rufous Hummingbird

Selasphorus rufus

General Status

By far the most common of the western strays. May appear as early as August and remain to early March. In recent years as many as thirty different individuals have been present each winter.

Early/Late Dates

Picayune 1 August, 2000 a return that had been banded the previous season-“b”JBe

Picayune 4 August, 2000 a second bird at same site as above “b”JBe

Heron Bay 12 March 2001 ad male sight record NB (*ebird*)

Diamondhead 18 March 2014 ad male photo L De Long (*pers comm.*)

Biloxi 5 April 2014 m.ob. Photo (*ebird*)

Pass Christian 10 April 2017 LM, et al photo (*ebird*)

Documentation- Banding records

Allen’s Hummingbird

Selasphorus sasin

General Status

Though extremely difficult to distinguish in the field from the Rufous in many plumages, (See *Birding February, 1997 29:1 18-27*) banding data show that it is truly a rare bird here and not merely overlooked.

First state record

Bay St Louis 22 November to mid December, 1992 LS, JT, m.ob. “b”RS and MSa (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

Early/Late Dates

Ocean Springs 14 November 1995 “b”RS and MSa

Pascagoula 12 March 1994 (present since January 9) b”RS and MSa (*Schiefer, 1995 MK 23-2*)

Numbers

Reported in about half the winters since the first record. May be one to three in any given year. Even in an occurrence year Rufous to Allen ratio is about 10:1 (e.g., 1995; 32 Rufous, 3 Allen)

Documentation- Banding records

Calliope Hummingbird

Selasphorus calliope

First documented state record

Second year male Diamondhead 2 January 1993 DH “b”RS

A sight record the previous season by several experienced observers of an adult female was also doubtless correct

Bay St 21 L November 1992 RS-LS, TS, JT (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

The Calliope has been recorded in most years since then, sometimes 3-4/ season.

Earliest Diamondhead 14 November 1995 (*MBRC*)

Latest Biloxi 5 April 2014 m.ob. (*ebird*)

They have appeared as early as 14 November lingered as late as early April

Documentation- Banding records

Broad-billed Hummingbird

Cyananthus latirostris

One record to date

Banded Oceans Springs 3 November 1998 recaptured Pass Christian 5 January 1999.
First state record. TG, KK, JSP m.ob. "b."BC (*Knight, 1999 MK29-2*)

Buff-bellied Hummingbird

Amazilia yucatenensis

General Status

An annual winter visitor, up to five or six may be scattered over various sites at any time.

Early/Late Dates

Pascagoula 16 October 2013 BJ, M.Dedeaux photo (*ebird*)

Bay St L 12 April, 1989 sight record-LS, et al. (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Documentation- Banding records

White-eared Hummingbird

Hylocharis leucotis

Only state record

Gulfport mid November 1995 to 4 January 1996 H. Horne, m.ob. "b" BC (*Schiefer, 1998 MK28-2*)

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KINGFISHERS, WOODPECKERS *Alcedinidae, Picidae*

Belted Kingfisher

Megaceryle alcyon

General Status

Resident year round but most common from early October to late April. Quite scarce as a breeding species. It is regular by late summer along the waterfront (dispersed breeders? Early migrants?) E.g. 11 Jourdan River to Bayou Caddy 25 July 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Breeding

Has nested in the spoil bank of the Pipeline Canal (Ansley marsh) on several occasions. Adult with dependent young seen 2 June, 2004 NB (*ebird*)

CBC Data

MSJC has recorded as many as 86 (1984). The normal range for both CBCs is 20 to 50.

High Count

23 Pascagoula River 16 December 1995 L. Jacobson (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Red-headed woodpecker

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

General Status

Overall fairly common particularly northward. More erratic in the south where it is present in some locales only during the breeding season. Noisy, conspicuous and reasonably tolerant of human neighbors.

BBS Data

Cyb, Ben 6/6 1-7; Nic, Lat 6/6 2-8

CBC Data

Both CBCs show much the same pattern. Absent in some years but generally 2-8 recorded. A combined total of 54 in 1977 was probably due to some temporary cessation of the normal winter withdrawal.

High Counts

14 Greenwood Cemetery 25 March 2016 MW (*ebird*)

24 ClowerT 30 April 2014 NB (*ebird*)

24 PRWMA 23 February 2009 ZN (*ebird*)

31 PRWMA 24 February 2009 ZN (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Melanerpes carolinus

General Status

An abundant permanent resident in a variety of habitats. Though wiped out by Hurricane *Katrina* in some locales (e.g. Ansley) it recovered well.

BBS Data

All 6/6. Cyb 31-35; Ben 21-35; Nic 15-35; Lat 6-27

CBC Data

In 2002, the combined total for both CBCs was 228, notably high.

The normal range for both is 20 to 40, with little change over the years.

High Counts

34 Logtown 8 October 2012 V.Remsen (*ebird*)

38 PRWMA 18 March 2009 ZN (*ebird*)

41 CataS 23 February 2012 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Sphyrapicus varius

General Status

A fairly common winter visitor from mid October to early April. Perhaps more common in the north than near the coast.

Early/Late Dates

Gulfport 26 September 1988 JT (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Seaman Road 16 May 1997 (*Survey Team*)

Biloxi 26 May 1992 R.Knight (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

CBC Data

Counts in the high 30's are occasionally tallied on CBCs. Normal range is 10 to 20.

High Counts

13 DeSoto NF 13 January 2012 H.Holbrook (*ebird*)

17 PRWMA 21 February 2007 N.Banfield (*ebird*)

36 Black Creek, Pascagoula 25 February 2008 N.Banfield (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Downy Woodpecker

Picoides pubescens

General Status

On the coast, Hurricane *Katrina* had a disastrous effect on this previously ubiquitous backyard bird but CBC data indicates recent recovery. Further inland BBS data indicate that *Katrina* had little effect.

Breeding

Primarily nests in limbs with an advanced state of heart rot (*see BNA-Downy Woodpecker-microhabitat* and associated links). Very few such limbs and snags survived *Katrina*. Disappeared entirely from the Ansley-Heron Bay area of Hancock Co. where 6 to 8 pairs nested formerly (*Boyajian, 2006 MOS Newsletter*); much reduced in the Logtown-Spence's Woods area (NB) and "virtually gone" from residential areas of Gulfport (*JT pers. comm.*) Has recovered somewhat: e.g., 2-3 pairs at Ansley in 2010 (NB).

On BBS routes Remained basically unchanged pre/post *Katrina*

BBS Data

Cyb, Benn 6/6 1-5; Nic 5/7 1-7; Lat4/6 1-2

CBC Data

MSSH range for 5 years pre-Katrina 38-60

Range for 5 years post-Katrina 0-19

Range for 2011-2017 34-68

High Counts

18 Logtown 8 October 2012 V. Remsen (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Comment

Hairy Woodpecker

Picoides villosus

General Status

Though it may wander a bit in winter, the Hairy is primarily a mature woodland species, thinly distributed through suitable habitat. Seldom more than 1-2/sighting.

Though a regular resident of wooded sites in the La delta, this does not seem to be the case in MS. There is only one sighting from the coastal marshes from June through August. Ansley 3 August 2013 NB (*ebird*)

CBC Data

Both CBC's consistently record 1 to 3 birds a year, occasionally as many as 10

Documentation-Specimen USNM

Comments

There isn't much information available on home range of this species, but casual observation at Henleyfield suggests that it forages over a much more extensive area than does the **Downy** or **Red-bellied**.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker

Picoides borealis

General Status

Formerly fairly widespread but now confined to various sites in DeSoto NF where populations were reasonably stable until Hurricane *Katrina*. Two birds were found dead after the storm and another thirteen cavities were destroyed and the birds missing. Seventy-seven artificial cavities were constructed and a number of birds were relocated

from Fort Benning Georgia. (*U.S. Army Environmental Command Environmental Update, Winter 2007*). The project seems to have been successful. Birds currently can be readily found at the traditional sites (See *Toups and Jackson, 1986* or *Toups, Bird & Peterson, 2004*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Northern Flicker

Colaptes auratus

General Status

Abundant as a winter visitor but rather scarce as a breeding species. Most frequent from October to March.

BBS Data

Cyb, Ben 6/6 1-5; Nic 5/6 1-7; Lat 4/6 1-2

CBC Data

Normal range on both CBCs is 30 to 50 /year but there have been occasional counts of over 100

High Counts

16 Singing River 11 October 2015 (ACBS)

18 Logtown 8 October 2012 V.Remsen (*ebird*)

20 Black Creek, Pascagoula 18 March 2009 ZN (*ebird*)

22 PRWMA 20 February 2007 M.Lammertink (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Pileated Woodpecker

Dryocopus pileatus

General Status

A permanent resident throughout. It is most frequent in river bottom woodlands but can also be found in cheniers, wooded marshland islands and wooded residential areas.

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 3-6; Ben 6/6 4-6; Nic 5/6 2-8; Lat 6/6 1-6

CBC Data

Both normally record 10 to 20 /year.

High Counts

24 Black Creek Pascagoula 25 February 2008 N.Banfield (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Ivory-billed Woodpecker

Campephilus principalis

The following was abstracted from a paper by Jerome Jackson (*MK 1988, 18-1*).

Refer to it for details and a thorough account of the history of this species in MS.

Two specimens

Both taken in the vicinity of Mississippi City, Harrison Co. in 1893 on 29 March and 12 April respectively.

Two sight records

“Near Bay St Louis”-January 1885

“Pascagoula Swamp” December 1921.

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FALCONS [PARROTS] Falconide, *Psttacidæ*

Crested Caracara

Caracara cheriway

Four, possibly five records.

14 miles west of Waveland (this would be approximately on an Ansley/Pearlington line)

1 April 1982 R.Lohofener (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

PortBien “winter” 1983 RHa (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*) See Comment 1

Jackson Co 14 May 2005 CE-SE, et al (*unpubl. rec.*)

Seaman Road 30 December, 2010 m.ob. (*Survey Team*)

In a communication concerning the 2005 bird, JT mentioned a prior Jackson Co. record which I have been unable to track down. Further information would be appreciated

Documentation- Photos on file for the 1983, 2005 and 2010 birds.

Comment 1

Same individual as April 1982?

Comment 2

Appears to be expanding its range (BNA) and non-breeders are known post-breeding wanderers (*pers comm. J.Morrison*) Not known as a falconer’s bird but apparently popular as a captive in parts of the Americas. One bit of folklore maintains that caracara x chicken crossings produce formidable fighting cocks

American Kestrel

Falco sparverius

General Status

Always a sparse breeder, until recently the kestrel was a very common winter visitor but may be decreasing somewhat.

Breeding

Information on current status is much needed.

Formerly a few pairs were scattered through both rural and urban locales (e.g., Gulfport, subsisting on Least Terns-*Toups and Jackson, 1987*. This behavior noted again in 2011 (*pers comm. MD*)

Probably bred on Campbell’s Island in the Ansley Marsh in 2004-2005. Adults present through June; one volant young seen in 2004-NB (*ebird*)

Nesting pair at Jones Park, Gulfport July 2017 J.Hill, et al (*ebird*)

CBC Data

MSJC 1976-2005 avg/yr 25 Maxima 52 (1977) 55 (1995)

2006-2015 avg/yr 15 Maxima 29 (1998) 26 (1992)

MSSH 1976-2015 avg/yr 27 Maxima 49 (1982) 44 (1984)

2006-2015 avg/yr 22 Maxima 40 (2008) 41 (2015)

High Counts

11 Singing River I 9 December 2014 BJ (*ebird*)

25 CataN 19 February 2015 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation Specimen MMNS

Merlin

Falco columbarius

General Status

At least a few are present every winter from early September to late April but recorded mostly as a migrant, uncommon but regular in fall, scarce in spring. There are very few sightings at anytime from the northern tier.

Early/Late Dates

Hancock Co 18 August 1990 TS (*Schiefer, 1991 MK 21-1*)

Seaman Road 7 May 2009 (*Survey Team*)

Cat Island 9 May 2012 J. Wang (*ebird*)

East Ship Island 10 May 1977 WW (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-2*)

Seaman Road 23 May 2002 (*Survey Team*)

High Count

5 Seaman Road 25 October 2012 (*Survey Team*)

CBC Data

Recorded on both CBCs in two out of three years, normally one to three per year.

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

General Status

An uncommon migrant and winter visitor from early September to early May on or near the coast. Until recently the norm was one or two wintering birds each year. Now seems to be increasing (perhaps recovering is a better word) As many as five or six now winter over the coastal marshes and barrier islands.

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 4 August 2011 (*Survey Team*)

Gulfport 20 August 2015 (*ACBS*)

Singing River I 23 August 2011 (*ACBS*)

East Ship I 11 May 1977 WW (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-2*)

West Ship I 13 May 2014 OG (*ebird*)

GB N/N 14 May 2009 JW (*ebird*)

Biloxi 25 May 2016 (*ACBS*)

Two summer records

PRM 2 June 1978 R.Chapel, et al. (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

2 Jackson Co 17 July 1991 CD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

CBC Data

Data from both CBCs are about the same; one or two individuals seen on about 1 out of three counts.

High Counts

6-8 Horn Island 13 September 1995 CD, LJ (*Delmas, 1996 MK 26-2*)

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Comment Per NW

FWS is now allowing states to regulate migrant Peregrine take for falconry. 36 will be allowed to be taken from the East each year. MS is allotted 3 birds each year.

They have to be first-year birds, and the timing (20 Sept.-20 Oct.) is supposed to help ensure only Northern birds are taken rather than the less common Eastern bird
Further info can be found in the *Federal Register Vol 74 No. 13, March 13, 2009* and at the *NFWS website under "final assessment Peregrine Falcon.*

***Prairie Falcon**

Falco mexicanus

Two sight records (for details see *Davis, et al, 1992 MK 22-2*)

Lakeshore 4 November 1983 JT, DaK

Davis Bayou 4 November 1991 JT, et al.

Documentation- needed

[MONK PARAKEET]

Myiopsitta monachus

There are occasional reports of escapes/releases/strays. Typical are:

Bay St L 23 February 2008 SE (*pers comm.*)

GB N/N 11 June 2009 JW (*ebird*)

(There is an established population in New Orleans).

[CAROLINA PARAKEET]

Conuropsis carolinensis

There is no hard evidence that this species ever occurred on the MS coast. See *McKinley, 1981 MK 11-1*

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TYRANT-FLYCATCHERS *Tyrannidae*

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Contopus cooperi

General Status

A rather rare fall migrant, seen most frequently from late August to mid September. Almost always single birds. Unknown in spring, though there are a few Alabama and New Orleans records at that season so an eventual sighting here is not out of the question.

Early/Late Dates

Logtown 13 August 2011 NB (*e-bird*)

(locale?) 15 August and 17 August in different, unspecified, years JT (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Bellebeach 18 August 1978 JT, et al. (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)

Ocean Springs 10 October 2009 L. Caruso, et al (*unpubl rec*)

Biloxi 11 October 017 HC (*e-bird*)

West Ship I 13 October 1980 JJ (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

Bellebeach 21 October 1978 LG, JT (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 9-2*)

High Counts

2 Hancock Co 27 August 2016 photo HW (*e-bird*)

2 GBN/N 17 September 2008 JW (*e-bird*)

Documentation-Banding records MSU

***Western Wood-Pewee**

Contopus sordidulus

To date, the inclusion of this species is based on the acceptance by MBRC of a field observation and a banded (but not photographed) bird. (There is an additional accepted sight record for Scott County).

Bellebeach 30 September 1978. (Weber, et al, 1979 MK 9-1)

Distinction from Eastern Wood-Pewee in this case was based on visual characteristics and voice. There were also comments on behavioral differences for which I can find no corroboration elsewhere.

GBNERR 17 October 2004 a pewee banded and released as *virens* was recaptured 24 October by the same observer, who, upon making a more detailed examination, deemed the bird to be *sordidulus*. The data (but not the bird) were examined by MW who agreed “on the possibility of this bird being a Western Wood-Pewee.” The record was ultimately accepted by MBRC.

Documentation-Needed

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Contopus virens

General Status

A fairly common summer resident in the northern tier and locally along the coast, from early April until mid September. Widespread and common as a migrant.

Early/Late Dates

Bellebeach 19 March 1983 JT, et al. (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)

Woolmarket, Harrison Co. 3 November 2015 OG (*ebird*)

Pascagoula 4 November 2015 BJ (*ebird*)

Bellebeach 7 November 1977 JT, et al. (*Weber and Jackson, 1978 MK 8-1*)

Bellebeach 10 November 1983 MB, JT, (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-21*)

Pascagoula 10 November 2015 BJ, M.Morris (*ebird*)

There seem to be no details available for some of the older late date observations and they might be questioned in light of recent, possibly valid, reports of WEWP both in our area and northward-See that species

Breeding

Usually one to two pairs from Logtown and/or Spence’s Woods and Ansley but in general absent as a breeder in the southern tier.

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 2-6; Necaise 3/6 2-3; Latimer 1/6 0-1; Benndale 0

High Counts

9 Ward Bayou WMA 18 September 2010 JW (*ebird*)

15 ClowerT 30 April 2014 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHERS

One should bear in mind, especially when dealing with late fall sightings, the very real possibility of a stray from the west. Case in point-next species vs birds of the “Western” Flycatcher complex. There are specimen records from LA and one such possibility was seen at Ansley, 13 November 2012 (NB) but could not be definitely identified.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Empidonax flaviventris

General Status

Though deemed casual in spring (cf *BBMC* and *BCM*) banding results on East Ship Island by USM researchers for the five years from 1987 through 1991 show a total of twenty, a remarkable 13 of them in 1989. Otherwise we have only a few spring sight/sound records from mid April well into May. Fall reports are more frequent (despite, or perhaps because, ID is more difficult) from early August to early October.

Early/Late Dates Spring

East Ship Island 11 April 1989 T. Simons et al. (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Biloxi 11 May 1981 M. Morris (*Imhof, 1989 Am Birds 35: 832-834*)

Gulfport 12 May 1940 (*Burleigh, 1944*) This, and all further *Empidonax* citations for *Burleigh, 1944* refer to collected specimens

Early/Late Dates Fall

Deer Island 9 August 1941- (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Deer Island 13 October 1936- (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Clower T 13 October 2002 BD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Hancock Co 3 November 1985 LG, TGa (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

High Counts

6 banded- East Ship Island 7 May 1988 fide, FM (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

13 banded spring 1989 TSi et al (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Acadian Flycatcher

Empidonax virescens

General Status

This is the local default *Empi*. Eliminate it in its various guises before thinking about any other species.

Begins appearing with some regularity by mid April though the breeding population does not seem to be well established until early May. Breeds sparingly in well forested locales, Logtown, ORWMA, DeSoto NF, etc. Seems to be decreasing. . Rare after late September.

Early/Late Dates

Gulfport 8 April 1936 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Davis Bayou 15 April 2000 (*Wood and Vilella, 2002 MK 32-2*)

Cat Island 23 October 1940 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Deer Island 8 November 1941 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

High Counts

9 ORWMA 23 September 2017 JL (*ebird*)

10 ORWMA 14 September 2012 NB (*ebird*)

BBS Data

Cyb, Ben, Lat 1/6 0-1; Nic 2/6 1-2

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Trill's complex

Extremely rare in spring but a fairly common fall migrant from mid August to late September. Distinguishing from other Empis (not from each other) by sight characteristics is often possible. JSP's original notes sum up the situation

Alder Flycatcher

Empidonax alnorum

As JSP noted "All records of certainty were specimens collected when this species was lumped with Willow Flycatcher into "Traill's Flycatcher". Therefore, many records of early specimens were keyed only as "Traill's," including the earliest collected by A. Allison on 6 September, 1899 at Bay St. Louis, Hancock Co. (*Gandy & Turcotte 1970*)

Willow Flycatcher

Empidonax traillii

To date, there is only one positive identification of Willow Flycatcher, a specimen collected at Gulfport by Burleigh on 24 September 1941 and later identified in 1970 by Allan Phillips. This specimen is # 6019 at the LSU Museum of Natural History

Comment 1

Though the Willow is confirmed as a nesting species in Louisiana and (erratically) in northern Mississippi, note the following comment by J.V. Remsen *Ned* — *we have a tiny breeding population of Willows here, too. However, we "never" detect this species in migration — its migration route is evidently highly circus-Gulf. In contrast, Alder is a fairly common bird here — many many specimens and many individuals ID'd by call note. We also have a fair number of Burleigh specimens from coastal Mississippi — all Alders, at least the ones that can be identified. So, I would place the burden on MS to document any Willows, at least at similar latitudes to LA. At some point going north, the fall route of Willow will be intersected, and that would be great to document.*

Comment 2

There is a detailed analysis of the calls of the two species (with sound recordings) by D. Archibald McCallum, Applied Bioacoustics, Eugene, Ore. Plug "Traill's Flycatcher Sounds" into your search engine.

Following are some field observations

2 Traill's complex Biloxi 29 April 1987 GM, JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

35 to 40 Empis, mostly Traill's PWMA 6 October 1989 CC, JT, et al. (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

8 to 12 Traill's Complex WaveLag 14 October 2002 NB (*ebird*)

Alder Flycatcher vocalizing BelleBeach 4 May 1997 CD, DM (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Willow Flycatcher vocalizing 6 May 2007 Ansley NB bird (*ebird*)

Least Flycatcher

Empidonax minimus

General Status

Rare in spring from mid April to mid May but rather common in fall from mid August to early October. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this species is actually more inclined to

vocalize in fall than in spring. Keep Hammond's/Dusky Flycatchers in the back of your mind when dealing with late fall birds.

Early/Late Dates Spring

East Ship I banded 9 April 1989 FM, AK, T. Simons (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Gulfport 11 April 1983 JT (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)

Heron Bay 14 May 2005 NB (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Deer Island 31 July 1936 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Deer Island 6 August 1938 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Hancock Co 26 October 1997 CD, et al. (*CD pers. comm. to JSP*)

Saucier 9 November 1937 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

One Winter Record

Waveland 16 December 2014 DM, SM, et al. Photographs and sound recording. (*MSSH*)

High Count

3 Ward Bayou 16 September 2010 JW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Gray Flycatcher

One Record

GBN/N 30 October 2017 Y. Haughney, M. Stewart Photos ; (*ebird*)

An astonishing find with excellent documentation.

Documentation Photographs (*MBRC Archives*)

Eastern Phoebe

Sayornis phoebe

General Status

A common winter visitor widespread in a variety of habitats from early October to early April.

Early/Late Dates

Ocean Springs 8 September 1984 TS, et al. (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

Logtown 10 September 2011 CD, et al. (*ebird*)

Gulfport 14 September 1976 JT (*Jackson and Weber, 1976 MK 6-2*)

Seaman Road 24 April 2017 JH et al (*ebird*)

Henleyfield 25 April 2007 NB (*ebird*)

ClowerT 2 May 2015 A. Sabatini (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 18 May 2000. (*Survey Team*)

Biloxi 18 May 2015 (*ACBS*)

High Counts

26 Seaman Road 5 November 2015 (*Survey Team*)

39 Seaman Road 18 December 2004 (*Survey Team*)

MSSH: Normal range 30 to 60/year. Maximum of 114 in 2002.

MSJC: Normal range 30 to 60/year.

Breeding

Has nested at the same location in Desoto NF, Jackson Co. since 2004-GM, SM, et al. Nest (only) photographed; vocalizations recorded.

Documentation-MMNS

Say's Phoebe

Sayornis saya

Three Records

W. Ship Is. 25-31 October 2014 OG, et al (*ebird*)

W. Ship Is. 4-6 October 2016 W. Martz (*Winstead 2017 MK 47-1*)

Seaman Road 12 October 2017 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation-photographs MSBRC

Vermilion Flycatcher

Pyrocephalus rubinus

General Status

A regular winter visitor in small numbers. Most sightings are from mid October to early March. Appears to be increasing (at least sightings are). Prefers sheltered spots near water.

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 16 September 2003 (*Survey Team*)

East Ship I 25 September 1987 T.Simon, et al. (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Heron Bay 25 September 1995 NB (*ebird*)

Singing River 25 September 2011 NB, CD (*e-bird*)

Lyman Hatchery 5 March 1976 HH (*Haberyan, MK 6-1*)

CataN 26 March 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Henleyfield 4 April 2013 NB (*ebird*)

Camp Wilkes, Biloxi 19 April 2013 P. Carter photo (*ebird*)

Numbers

4 CataS October 10 2004 JB, NB et al. (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

4 Van Cleave 2 January 2017 P Blank (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

MYIARCHUS

.The superb commentaries on Myiarchus ID by Dittman and Cardiff in BNA is must reading for anyone serious about identifying this VERY difficult genus.

Ash-throated Flycatcher

Myiarchus cinerascens

General Status

About twenty records to date, virtually annual in fall in recent years.

Early/Late Dates

Waveland 25 September 1990 MP JT, et al. (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 21-1*)

WaveLag 5 November 1988 first state record D. Carroll, et al, (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

PRM 6 February to 9 March 1999 CD, m.ob. (*Schiefer, 1991 MK 31-1*)

Kiln 4-8 March 2012 NB, CE, et al. (*ebird*)

Logtown 14 March 2017 . Photo HW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Photograph (*MBRC*)

Comment

Prefers low scrubby woodlands, hedgerows, etc. Not too difficult to distinguish from Great-crested but the cooperi subspecies of Brown-crested Flycatcher (from lower Rio Grande Valley) looks very similar. It has been confirmed on a number of occasions in Louisiana. The more dissimilar form from se Arizona, magister, has also been taken in once in Louisiana-2 birds together.

Great Crested Flycatcher

Myiarchus crinitus

General Status

A common summer resident from early April to late September Any late season *Myiarchus* should be immediately suspect. It probably is not this species.

Early/Late Dates

Saucier 22 February 2017 OG (*ebird*)

Gulfport 16 March 2001 MD, et al. (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

ClowerT 21 March 2000 GM (*Knight, 2001 MK 31-2*)

BelleBeach 1 November 1962 HH (*Gandy and Turcotte, 1970*)

BSS Data

All 6/6 Cyb, Ben 6-22; Nic 14-28; Lat 7-21.

High Count

14 Logtown 21 April 2013 R Dobbs (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

***Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher**

Myiodynastes luteiventris

One sight record

Port Bienville 31 December 1979 (MSSH)

Documentation Needed

This is the only record of **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** outside the temporal window of vagrancy for the southeast (*J.V. Remsen, pers. comm.*), which in the spring ranges from late April through early May, and in the fall ranges from late September through early October. Sightings outside that window may pertain to the even more rare but similar-appearing **Streaked Flycatcher** (*Myiodynastes maculatus*), or **Variegated Flycatcher** (*Empidonamus varius*), or **Piratic Flycatcher** (*Legatus leucophaeus*). Passerines which winter entirely within South America, as does **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher**, are virtually unknown in the United States during that season (*J.V. Remsen, pers. comm.*). Birders finding a "Sulphur-belly" during winter should document their findings carefully and thoroughly."-JSP

T. Schiefer has graciously supplied me with a copy of the original report which I do not believe JSP had an opportunity to examine. It definitely eliminates **Piratic** and **Vareigated Flycatchers** but in my opinion does not fully eliminate **Streaked Flycatcher**, particularly *Myiodynastes maculatus insolens*-NB

Tropical Kingbird

Tyrannus melancholicus

Six to date

Three of them were from the same location in Bay St Louis (Jordan River Estates) in successive years and may have been the same individual

16 December 2014 to 12 January 2015

Discovered on CBC by OG and NM. Subsequently seen, photographed and recorded by numerous observers (*ebird*.)

31 December 2015-28 February 2016

Discovered by H. Weber Subsequently seen, photographed and recorded by m.ob. (*ebird*)

1 January 2017-20 March 2017

Discovered by H. Weber Subsequently seen, photographed and recorded by m.ob. (*ebird*)

Pascagoula 9 June 2017 BJ, LJ Photos (*ebird*)

Singing River I. 23 June 2017 BJ Photos (*ALF*)

Pascagoula 1-16 October m. ob. Photos, recordings (*ebird*.)

Documentation-photographs; sound recordings MSBRC

Couch's Kingbird

One Record

Singing River I. 13 January 2016-20 April 2016 (*ebird*.)

13 January 2016-First discovered by CD, BJ et al. (photo)

18 January 2016 Sound recording by JR

Subsequently seen, photographed and recorded by m.ob. (*ebird*.)

Documentation-photographs; sound recordings MSBRC

Western Kingbird

Tyrannus verticalis

General Status

Only casual in spring but regular in fall in small numbers, mostly from late September to early January. Occasionally over-winters.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Ansley 21 April 1987 JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Seaman Road 29 April 2010 (*Survey Team*)

PRM 15 June 1987 CD, JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Early Dates Fall

Kiln 4 August 2014 NB (*ebird*)

Hancock Co 8 August 2000 C. Wilson (*unpubl. rec.*)

WaveLag 16 August 1989 JT (*Schiefer, 1990 20-1*)

Kiln August 29 1987 JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

CBC Data

MSJC three times

MSSH eleven times

Documentation-Specimen USNM

Eastern Kingbird

Tyrannus tyrannus

General Status

A common summer resident, widespread from late March to late October. Abundant in migration.

Early/Late Dates

WaveLag 14 March 1991 JT, et al. (*Schiefer, 1992 MK 22-2*)

BelleBeach 18 March 1978 JT (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

GB N/N 18-19 March 2005 MW (*ebird*)

Lake Mars 8 October 2016 (*ACBS*)

GB N/N 23 October 2016 LJ (*ebird*)

Gulfport 9 November 1977 JT (*Weber and Jackson, 1978 MK 8-1*)

High Counts

50 East Ship I 11 May 1977 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

195 Pearlinton 15 September 1984 MH, JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

500 Pt Cadet 30 August 2011 JW (*ebird*)

450-500 Logtown 15 September 2006 NB (*ebird*)

7500 PRMCP 18 September 2009 JW (*ebird*)

Observer's Report

Huge flight streaming down river came to check-out report. We chased them in a boat and found the Kingbirds going down to roost in the marsh, in particular in large patches of Phragmites, but were thick in Spartina cynusoroides too and lining the treetops in the tree islands.

BBS Data

All 6/6. Cyb, Ben 5-10; Nic 5-28; Lat 6-11.

BBS6Y: 5 to 17

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Gray Kingbird

Tyrannus dominicensis

General Status

Rare summer visitor and erratic breeder. All records are from the islands or the immediate coast of the mainland.

Early/Late Dates

Biloxi 13 April 1979 P. Donaldson (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-1*)

Belle Fontaine Beach 14 April 2017 HC (*Winstead, 2017 MK 47-2*)

PortBien 28-29 October 1989 MH, WMD, JT, m.ob. (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Breeding History

Shows a pattern on the North Gulf Coast from Florida to Louisiana of gradually expanding westward only to be set back by hurricanes and then re-expanding.

Nested on Horn Island in the late 1960's prior to Hurricane *Camille*. Reappeared there in 1974 and was noted annually until 1979 with as many as five pairs in some years.

For a complete record of the species on Horn Island through 1977 see *Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-1*

A single pair nested on the mainland at Biloxi, 1998-2000.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

Tyrannus forficatus

General Status

Rare in spring but regular in fall from early October to mid December. Most sightings are from the immediate vicinity of the coast. A diurnal migrant, often suddenly appearing in small flocks which linger a short time and move on. The July 2015 reports may reflect breeding activity noted in north MS that year.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Horn Island 14 March 1977 D.Bradburn (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-1*)

Seaman Road 9 April 2009 (*Survey Team*)

Clermont Harbor 10 May 1960 AT (*Gandy and Turcotte, 1970*)

Hancock Waterfront 17 May 2004 NB (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Seaman Road 2 July 2015 (*Survey Team*)

Pascagoula 24 July 2015 BJ (*ebird*)

Ansley 23 September 1989- NB (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Singing River I 8 December 2016 LJ Photo (*ebird*)

Biloxi 20 December 1988 to 2 February 1989 GM, JT (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

2 Waveland 1 January 2005 CE, et al (*ebird*)

High Counts

7 Ansley 14 October 2012 NB, NM (*ebird*)

9 Pascagoula 22 October 2014 BJ (*ebird*)

10 Pascagoula 16 October 2017 BJ, LJ (*ebird*)

Documentation-Photograph MSU

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SHRIKES, VIREOS *Laniidae, Vireonidae*

Loggerhead Shrike

Lanius ludovicianus

General Status

Present year-round but most numerous in winter.

Though in serious long term decline in most of its range seems to be recovering a bit in our Region

Breeding

28 individuals in 6 family groups Harrison Co., all south of Hwy 90 6 June 1988 JT (*Hodges 1985, MK 18-2*)

3 reports of family groups for entire Region in 2007 BuccSP and White Sands, Pearl River Co NB (*unpubl. recs.*) Van Cleave CE (*unpubl. rec.*)

5 reports of family groups Pearl River and Hancock Cos for 2012 NB (*unpubl. recs.*)

8-10 reports of family groups Pearl River and Hancock Cos for 2012 NB (*unpubl. recs.*)

BBS Data

Cyb 5/6 2-9; Ben 1/6 0-1; Nic 5/6 1-4; Lat 4/6 0-1

CBC Data

MSJC: mid 1980's to late 1990's normal range 25-40.

Late 1990's to 2012 normal range 10-20

2013-2014 – 23, 23

MSSH: mid 1980's to late 1990's normal range 35-45

Late 1990's to 2012 normal range 20-30
2013-2014- 44, 58

High Counts

25 CataS 20 March 2013 NB (*ebird*)

26 Singing River I 30 September 2014 (*ACBS*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

White-eyed Vireo

Vireo griseus

General Status

An abundant migrant and common breeder, vocalizing incessantly from mid March to mid October. Counts of over 50/locale are not unusual during migratory peaks in April and September. A few overwinter but they skulk silently in heavy cover and are hard to find.

BBS Data

All 6/6. Cyb 14-20; Ben 10-24; Nic8-20; Lat 3-7

BBS6Y: 10-20

CBC Data

Both CBC's average 2 to 5/year.

High Counts

50 Buccaneer SP 30 March 2014 E. Dellenger (*ebird*)

50 ClowerT 12 April 2016 DR (*ebird*)

75 Logtown 27 August 2016 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Bell's Vireo

Vireo bellii

General Status

A very rare fall migrant. About twenty records to date, most from mid September to mid October.

Early/Late Dates

Ocean Springs 30 July 1940 B. Coffey (*Turcotte and Watts, 1999*)

2 George Co. 27 August 2011 CE, JW, MW (*e-bird*)

PRWMA 4 September 1999 CD, DMc (*Schiefer, 2001 MK 31-1*)

Deer I 18 September 1939 collected (*Burleigh 1944*)

Ansley 14 October 2002 NB (*Knight, 2003 MK 33-1*)

Ocean Springs 11 November 1982 D. Ruple (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

There is one spring record

Davis Bayou 1 May 1996 CC, CD, DMc, et al (*Schiefer, 1996 MK 28-2*)

Documentation Specimen MMNS

Comment

A spring sighting in 1996, published elsewhere, was not accepted by the MBRC.

***Black-capped Vireo**

Vireo atricapilla

One sight record.

1 male, 1 female BelleBeach 4 May 1978 LG, JT (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)
Doubtless will remain unique.

Documentation Needed

Yellow-throated Vireo

Vireo flavifrons

General Status

An abundant migrant from late March to early May and late August to mid October. Quite scarce as a breeding species near the coast, somewhat more frequent northward (e.g., PRWMA)

Early/Late Dates

BelleBeach 15 March 2001 CB, NM (*pers. comm. NM to JSP*)

Airey Lake, Stone Co 15 March 2016 E. Lynch (*ebird*)

ClowerT 16 March 2014 AM, OG (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Ward Bayou 17 March 2011 JW (*ebird*)

Ansley 17 March 2014 NB (*ebird*)

Hancock Co 3 November 1985 LG, TGa (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 3-4; Ben 5/6 1-4; Nic, Lat 2/6 0-1.

CBC Data

Though winter reports are highly questionable, the following were accepted by CBC editors. See comment

MSJC: 17 December 1977

MSSH: 27 December 1994; 20 December 2005

Comment

Note the following by JSP

“Winter records along the Gulf Coast, including Louisiana (*J.V. Remsen, pers. comm.*) and Mississippi (*T.L. Schiefer, pers. comm.*) have yet to be substantiated by tangible evidence. Observers under such circumstances are encouraged to obtain photographs wherever possible. Many such winter reports probably pertain to the highly variable Pine Warbler.”

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Blue-headed Vireo

Vireo solitarius

General Status

A fairly common winter visitor, especially northward, from early October to mid April.

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 13 August 2015 (*Survey Team*)

Ocean Springs 25 September 1996 CD, LE (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

East Ship I 29 April 1988 FM (*Hodges 1988 MK 18-2*)

Seaman Road 5 May 2016 (*Survey Team*)

Davis Bayou 9 May 2004 L. Reynolds (*ebird*)

CBC Data

Both CBCs normal range 8-12.

High Count

7 PRWMA 30 January 2009 ZN (*ebird*)
Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Philadelphia Vireo

Vireo philadelphicus

General Status

A regular migrant in very small numbers. Most sightings are singles, concentrated in late April in spring and mid September to early October in fall.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Hancock Co 3 April 1996 CB, CD, JPe (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Bellebeach 9 April 1991 CC, CD, et al. (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Deer Island I. 7 May 1941 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Ansley 11 May 2012 NB (*ebird*)

PWMA, George Co. 13 May 2017 HC (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Ocean Springs 9 September 1984 CC, HC, DR (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

Logtown 6 November 1985 MB, JT (*Schardien and Jackson, 1985 MK 15-2*)

High Count

Cat Island 6 October 2017 A. Bell (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MSU

***Warbling Vireo**

Vireo gilvus

General Status

An obscurely plumaged migrant, usually high in the tree tops and usually silent, it is often overlooked. Most frequently reported in spring, mostly from mid April to early May. Usually only one or two. The relatively few fall reports are mostly from mid September to mid October.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Logtown 19 March 1982 JT (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

Ansley 8 April 2014 NB (*e-bird*)

Jackson Co. 9 April 1984 DaK, JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

Horn Island 25 May 1976 WW (*Jackson, 1976 6-1*)

Summer

Singing male seen and heard ORWMA 27 July 2006. Not relocated in following days NB (*e-bird*). There are no June records

Early/Late Dates Fall

ORWMA 7 August 2012 NB (*e-bird*)

BCNWR 18 August 2007 NB (*e-bird*)

ORWMA 22 August 2013 NB (*e-bird*)

Logtown 8 September 1984 MH, JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

Ward Bayou 16 October 1996 CB, CD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Gautier 26 October 1994 CD, LJ (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

High Count

6 Harrison Co 20 April 1978 (*BBMC*)

Documentation- Needed

Red-eyed Vireo

Vireo olivaceus

General Status

An abundant migrant and summer resident from late March to mid October.

Early/Late Dates

PRWMA 3 March 2009 ZN, et al. (*ebird*)

PRWMA 6 March 2009 ZN, et al. (*ebird*)

PRWMA 7 March 2012 B. Early (*ebird*)

Hancock Co 9 March 1991 CD, LJ, et al (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Bellebeach 5 November 1978 MN, JT (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Saucier 17 November 1939 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Breeding

15-20 vocalizing ORWMA one mile mature woodland 2006-2010 NB (*unpubl recs.*)

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 8-12; Ben 6/6 2-6; Nic 6/6 2-13; Lat 3/6 2-3

High Counts

39 PRWMA 16 April 2008 M. MacIntosh (*ebird*)

40 ClowerT 12 April 2016 DR (*ebird*)

67 Pascagoula 15 April 2008 M. MacIntosh (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Black-whiskered Vireo

Vireo altiloquus

About sixteen spring records

Not surprisingly, three are from banding on East Ship Island (*USM group*)

Earliest: Davis Bayou 30 March 1987 CC, et al. (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Latest: Harrison Co 4 May 2005 SD (*Wallace, 2005 No.Am Birds 59-3*)

One fall record

Jackson Co 9 August 1990 CD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Documentation-Photograph W Ship Is 27 April 2014 OG (*MBRC archives*)

Comment

As JSP noted ten years ago, occurs notably more frequently both to the east and west of us. (e.g. Grand Isle LA, Fort Morgan, AL.) The situation has not changed. Better coverage of the islands would probably make a difference.

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CROWS, JAYS, LARKS *Corvidae, Alaudidae*

Blue Jay

Cyanocitta cristata

General Status

An abundant and widespread permanent resident. Probably some influx in winter.

BBS Data

All 6/6. Cyb 16-42; Ben 18-53; Nic 31-46; Lat 12-24

CBC Data

Counts on both CBC's vary from year to year -60 to 300-but overall seem stable.

High Counts

72 Henleyfield 17 March 2012 NB (*ebird*)

93 ORWMA 11 March 2012 NB (*ebird*)

99 Bellefontaine, Jackson Co 5 January 2018 BJ,NM (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Comment

In October 1972 a vast incursion occurred along the coast from Louisiana to Alabama. Thousands were involved, many of which perished in the sea. See *McGraw, et al. 1973 (MK 3-1)* for the initial report and *Gunter, 1975 (MK 5-1)* for a summary of commentary.

American Crow

Corvus brachyrhynchos

General Status

Still a common to abundant permanent resident through a large part of the Region but perhaps decreasing in the rapidly urbanizing coastal communities.

CBC Data

All 6/6. Cyb 16-34; Ben 27-55; Nic 17-45; Lat 7-11.

CBC Data

Though numbers seem always to have fluctuated, there has been a very sharp drop in the past several years.

MSSH: historically, 100 to 400/yr.; last eight years, 16-84/year.

MSJC: historically, low hundreds to 1000; last eight years, 12-52/year.

Comment

PAB suggests West Nile disease as a factor in the sudden decline of both crow species in the early 2000's. There is a wealth of information available on the internet. Two good examples

West Nile Disease: Impact on Crow Populations in the U.S., R McLean 2004. Available at *Digital Commons @University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Counting Crows at All About Birds Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Fish Crow

Corvus ossifragus

Overall, a common permanent resident but subject to seasonal shifts and/or migratory movements that are not clearly understood. Deserts some areas during the colder months (e.g. Ansley). Conversely, can be regular at that season even well inland.. Seems to have urbanized somewhat more than the American Crow (hanging out at the mall and such).

CBC Data

Numbers have fluctuated over the years but MSSH has shown a marked decline in the past few whereas MSJC has remained reasonably stable.

MSSH: historically, 9 or 10 to over 300; last seven years, 5-14

MSJC: historically, 20 or 30 to high 100's; last seven years, 1-20

High Counts

132 Seaman Road 2 February 2012 (*Survey Team*)

163 Seaman Road 1 March 2012 (*Survey Team*)

203 Seaman Road 25 August 2011 (*Survey Team*)

400 PRM 27 February 1979 WW (*ebird*)

Breeding

BBS6Y: 5-20. In general, these routes are not prime Fish Crow territory.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

***Horned Lark**

Eremophila alpestris

Three reliable sight records to date:

Green Is (?) December 2003 CD (*pers. comm.*).

Gr Bay 20 January 2005 MW (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 6 May 2017 AD, et al (*ebird*)

Comment

2 MSJC 16 December 1989 are listed without details and are not published elsewhere.

Better coverage of northern fields and pastures in winter would probably result in further sightings.

Documentation-Needed

[HOME](#)

SWALLOWS *Hirundinidae*

No. Rough-winged Swallow

Stelgidopteryx serripennis

General Status

A regular summer resident from early March to mid October. Widespread but not particularly numerous as a breeding species. Sometimes occurs in fairly large numbers at migratory peaks in early April and late August. Has been recorded four or five times on CBCs but not in recent years. No January records.

Early/Late Dates

PRWMA 24 February 2009 ZN (*ebird*)

2 CataN 25 February 2012 NB (*ebird*)

Harrison Co 26 February 1980 JT (*Jackson and Schardien, 1980 MK 10-1*)

CataN 26 February 2012 NB (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 26 February 2004 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 31 October 2002. (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 23 November 1997. (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 29 November 1986 MH, TS (*Jackson and Hodges, 1986 MK 16-2*)

Breeding

Nests in a variety of habitats wherever suitable sites exist; e.g. old bulkheading in the Ansley marsh, impounding dikes at CataN, etc. but never particularly numerous in any one place.

BBS Data

Cyb 3/6 1-3; Ben 5/6 1-3; Nic 3/6 2-4; Lat 2/6 1-2

High Counts

64 Seaman Road 17 June 1997 (*Survey Team*)

75 Ansley 4 September 2004 NB (*e-bird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Purple Martin

Progne subis

General Status

A common summer resident from mid February to mid August. One of the few species in the Ansley area that did not suffer unduly from Hurricane *Katrina*. The bulk of the population had left prior to the storm. By the following spring many nest boxes had been restored even though human habitations were still in total ruin.

Early/Late Dates

Keesler AFB 28 January 2003 BD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

CataS 29 January 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Biloxi 31 January C. Sullivan (*ebird*)

Singing River 10 October 2016 (ACBS)

Hancock Co 24 October 1977 JT (*Weber and Jackson, 1978 MK 8-1*)

Wavelag 2 November 1985 LG, TG, JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

BBS Data

All 6/6 Cyb 13-33; Ben 4-16; Nic 9-20; Lat 3-16

Cybur 20-30; others 4-16

Winter

Recorded twice on MSJC

21 December 1985

25 December 1992

There are about six other CBC sightings for Alabama and Louisiana.

High Counts

26 Gautier 5 February 2010 CD (*pers comm.*) Notable number this early

500+ Jackson Co 31 July 1977 WW (*Weber and Jackson, 1978 MK 8-1*)

2000 Bay St Louis 30 August, 1977 JT (*Weber and Jackson, 1978 MK 8-1*)

2000 PRMCP 18 September 2009 JW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Tree Swallow

Tachycineta bicolor

General Status

Has been recorded in every month but typically a common to abundant winter visitor from early October to mid April. Numbers fluctuate considerably from year to year.

Normal Early/Late Dates

Gulfport 28 July 1937 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Bay St Louis 28 July 2014 DR (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 31 July 2014 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 1 August, 1997 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 12 May 1993. (*Survey Team*)

“coast” 15 May 1939 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Pass Christian 3 June 2013 K. Tripp (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 4 June 2015. (*Survey Team*)

Summer

About a dozen sightings, mid June to Mid July

CBC Data

Numbers on both normally vary from 200-300 to 4000-5000

An Incredible 31419 on MSSH 28 December 1998 was accepted by CBC regional editor

High Counts

2805 Seaman Road 17 December 1994 (*Survey Team*)

3000 Logtown 21 January 2017 JP (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS**Comment**

MK July 1990 Vol 20-1 shows “500,000” for MSSH 28 December 1988. The correct total should be “0”.

Bank Swallow

Riparia riparia

General Status

A regular migrant from early April to mid May and mid August to early October, usually in fairly small numbers.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Seaman Road 5 March 2012 D. Gochfeld, et al (*e-bird*)

W Ship I 14 March 2015 HC, JL, et al (*e-bird*)

Seaman Road 7 June 2002 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 10 June 1997 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 17 June 2010 (*Survey Team*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Seaman Road 7 July 1999 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 27 July 1994 (*Survey Team*)

Wavelag 6 November 1985 MH, JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1986 MK 15-2*)

Seaman Road 6 November 1995 e (*Survey Team*)

High Counts

60 Anchor Lake 3 May 2006 Pearl River Co NB (*ebird*)

95 Seaman Road 3 September 2015 (*Survey Team*)

120 Seaman Road 3 September 2009 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation-Specimen USNM**Barn Swallow**

Hirundo rustica

General Status

A widespread and common “summer” resident most numerous from late March to late October but many linger into December. Unrecorded only in January.

Early/Late Dates

Davis Bayou 19 February 2012 C. Worthington, et al (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 25 February 1992 CC, TG (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

Hiller Park Harrison Co 28 February 2000 JSP, JT (*pers. comm.*)

Numerous November sightings

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 12-62; Ben 6/6 2-8; Nic 6/6 7-26 Lat 3/6 0-10

CBC Data

Combined CBC sightings total eleven over thirty years. One to two birds/sighting.

High Counts

Many counts of a few hundred to 1000+ migrants/day streaming over the marsh at Ansley April, late September-October-NB (*unpubl. recs.*)

913 Seaman Road 5 July 2007 (*Survey Team*)

2365 Seaman Road 28 July 2005 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Cliff Swallow

Petrochelidon pyrrhonota

General Status

A regular summer resident from mid March to late September, mostly near the coast. Has increased significantly in the last twenty years especially near the coast where scattered colonies averaging 10 to 30 pairs are found on highway overpasses, marsh bridges, etc.

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 26 February 2004 (*Survey Team*)

Gulf Park Estates 27 February 212 JW(*ebird*)

CataS 6 March 2011 NB (*ebird*)

6 Seaman Road 10 March 2011 (*Survey Team*)

Hancock Co 23 October 1979 JT (*Jackson and Schardien, 1980 MK 10-1*)

Hancock Co 24 October 1981 LG, TGa, JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-2*)

Seaman Road 30 October 2008 (*Survey Team*)

BBS Data

Only report since program began in 1966: One at Ben in 2010

High Counts

380 Seaman Road 29 August 2002 (*Survey Team*)

383 Seaman Road 3 August 2017 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Cave Swallow

Petrochelidon fulva

First recorded in 1986 then not again for almost twenty years. Now irregular transient spring and fall sometimes several sightings a year. All seem to be of the rapidly expanding southwestern race (*pallida*).

History

Horn Island found dead 25 March 1986. It was theorized to be (*fulva*) based on meteorological conditions. What was described as a “recognizable study-skin” was deposited at MSU. It is unclear whether this specimen was in good enough condition to be identified to subspecies. (*See Mackler and Hall, 1986 MK 16-2*)

Fulva has occurred in extreme southern Florida but do not seem to be expanding.

Current Status

Seaman Road 28 February 2004 SD photographed (see *Dinsmore website*).

Seems to arrive earlier in the spring, and depart later in the fall, than the **Cliff Swallow**.

Pallida has been found nesting in Louisiana and may eventually be found nesting here.

Early/ Late Dates Spring:

CataN 10 February 2008 NB (*ebird*)
Pascagoula 14 February 2008 DM, SM (*pers comm.*)
Seaman Road 17 April 2014 (*Survey Team*)
Seaman Road 27 April 2017 (*Survey Team*)
Seaman Road 5 May 2011 (*Survey Team*)

Early/ Late Dates Fall

2 Seaman Road 3 September 2015 P. Russo, MS, et al photo (*ebird*)
Seaman Road 5 September 2015 OG, MS, et al (*ebird*)
5 Bellebeach 16 November 2008 JW (*ebird*)

High Count

8 Crooked Bayou, Jackson 22 October 2008 JW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Photos *ebird*, ALF

Comment

Undoubtedly heightened observer awareness has been a factor in the increase of sightings as well as range expansion. SD especially needs be credited for this enlightenment.

There is much excellent information available on ID, range expansion, nesting habitat, etc. Try BNA; the “closer look” series by Dittmann and Cardiff (LOS website); and the “ocean wanderers” website. All will help you considerably in searching for this species and in attempting to make subspecific distinctions.

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TITMICE, NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS *Paridae, Sittidae, Certhiidae*

PARIDS

Breeding

Though traditionally ranked as “common to abundant permanent residents throughout” both species disappeared entirely as breeders from some locales after Hurricane *Katrina*. Almost certainly this was due to loss of suitable nest sites. Re-establishment has begun but as of spring 2011 numbers were still down at Ansey, Logtown, etc. and did not seem to fully recover for another few years. Data from BBS routes, all which of further are inland, showed little significant change. But see Necaie, below.

Winter

CBC numbers vary considerably from year to year but overall seem reasonably stable over thirty years. Fluctuations are probably partly cyclical and partly observer related.

Carolina Chickadee

Poecile carolinensis

BBS Data

All 6/6. Cyb7-13; Ben 5-16; Nic 4-10; Lat 1-7.

In 2006 Necaie route dropped to 0 from 12 and 13 the two previous years but has reported 0 in the past. Subsequent years reported a normal 2 to 9.

CBC Data

Counts vary from as few as 30 to as high as 280.

High Counts

41 PRWMA 18 March 2009 ZN (*ebird*)
41 Ansey 23 April 2012 NB (*ebird*)

40 McLeod Park 18 January 2014 J. Pyron (*ebird*)
Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Tufted Titmouse

Baeolophus bicolor

BBS Data

Overall the more frequently recorded of the two on BBS but this may be factors of vocalization /seasonality. CBC tallies imply the opposite.

All 6/6. Cyb 6-15; Ben 14-25; Nic 12-24; Lat 7-12.

CBC Data

Typical CBC range is 20 to 60; occasionally 100+.

High Counts

28 Ward's Bayou 17 March 2009 ZN (*ebird*)

31 PRWMA 18 March 2009 ZN (*ebird*)

46 PRWMA 15 April 2008 M. McIntosh (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Sitta canadensis

General Status

An erratic visitor. Norm is 1-5 sightings, usually in late fall but not found every year. Can be much more numerous in occasional incursion years and may then overwinter.

One summer record East Ship I 11 June 1977 WW (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-2*)

Early/Late Dates

Horn Island 27 September 1980 Moore and Rodriguez (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

Deer Island 8 May 1942 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

CBC Data

MSSH: nine times in 35 years; MSJC seven times in 35 years. Usually one or two per Count

Incursion 2012-2013

By far the largest on record. First sightings were in early October and by mid month were widespread. Peak reports were in mid to late November. There was some slacking off during the first half of December. Then birds began to settle in at feeding stations and numbers at regularly reporting sites remained constant until well into March. Many remained into mid April and a few into May.

Representative data

1 Ansley 8 October V. Remsen, NB (*ebird*)

5 Seaman Road 11 October (Survey Team)

1-2 average at 15 feeders mid October

2-4 average at 21 feeders late November-mid February

16 Necaise one mile pine plantation 20 November NB JP (unpublished)

5-11 ORWMA one mile four times mid November to mid February NB (unpublished)

1-2 average at 6 feeders April

1 Moss Point 7 May CK (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

White-breasted Nuthatch

Sitta carolinensis

General Status

A permanent resident not too far to our north, and apparently a fairly regular visitor (perhaps breeder) here in the very early 20th century.

Bay St Louis 24 June 1902 Alison

Burleigh 1937-1943, had only a single sight record,

Saucier 20 April 1936

In more recent times there was a spate of fall and early winter records in the late '70's perhaps due to a major irruption:

BuccSP 8-23 September 1976 JT, et al (*Jackson and Weber, 1976 MK 6-2*)

2 MSSH 29 December 1976

2 MSJC 15 December 19792

2 MSSH 31 December 1979

Only two reports since then

Saucier (feeder) 12 December 2005 through 4 February 2006 JW (*ebird*)

PWMA 12 April 2008 N. Banfield (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen USNM

Brown-headed Nuthatch

Sitta pusilla

General Status

Overall a fairly common permanent resident in stands and groves of mature pines, but sometimes may be absent from apparently suitable habitat for extended periods.

Breeding

Pretty well wiped out in coastal Hancock Co when Hurricane *Katrina* destroyed 80-90% of the mature pines. But began to reappear (2007) wherever a clump or grove of trees managed to survive.

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 1-6; Ben 5/6 4-11; Nic 6/6 1-6; Lat 6/6 1-11

CBC Data

Numbers vary considerably; from 15 to 125. More usual range is 20 to 80.

High Counts

27 Seaman Road 22 September 2011 (*Survey Team*)

30 MSCNWR 27 November 2015 C. Goulart (*ebird*)

43 Perkinston 26 November 2015 C. Goulart (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Brown Creeper

Certhia americana

General Status

An uncommon winter visitor from mid October to late March. Most frequent in mature woodlands. Solitary foragers are quite inconspicuous but creepers can often be found in roaming mixed flocks of parids, kinglets, etc. They then seem a bit more confiding.

Early/Late Dates

Deer Island 7 October 1935 (*Burleigh 1944*)

3 East Ship I 8 October 1987 A. Kuenzi (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)
Gulfport 27 March 1942 (*Burleigh 1944*)
Ansley 12 April 1988 MB, JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

CBC Data

MSJC: nine times; one or two per Count
MSSH: most years; 1-7per Count

High Counts

6 MSCNWR 3 February 2007 JW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

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WRENS *Troglodytidae*

Rock Wren

Salpinctes obsoletus

One Record

GB N/N 3 October 2012 JW (*ebird*)

House Wren

Troglodytes aedon

General Status

A common to abundant winter visitor throughout from mid October to mid March.

Early/Late Dates

Gautier 16 August 2000 CD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Seaman Road 2 September 2010 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 4 September 1998 (*Survey Team*)

Gulfport 27 April 1940 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Gulfport 1 May 1937 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

CBC Data

MSJC: average range 20-30

MSSH: average range 20-50

High Counts

17 Seaman Road 27 October 2016 (*Survey Team*)

21 Seaman Road 18 December 2004 (*Survey Team*)

23 Seaman Road 3 November 2000 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Winter Wren

Troglodytes hiemalis

General Status

A sparse winter visitor from mid October to late March. Probably somewhat overlooked. It is a great skulker but rather noisy and best detected by voice. Very seldom more than 1/locale.

Early/Late Dates

East Ship I October 2 1987 A. Kuenzi (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Bellebeach 4 October 1980 JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

Gulfport 15 April 1940 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Saucier 15 April 1943 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

CBC Data

MSJC: 13 times, one to 4/year

MSSH: 17 times, one to 7/year

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Sedge Wren

Cistothorus platensis

General Status

A common winter visitor from mid October to late April. Both CBCs: average 20 to 40/year

Early/Late Dates

Biloxi 21 September 1991 CD, JPe (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Deer Island 28 September 1942 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

East Ship I 11 May 1977 WW (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-2*)

High Counts

24 MSCNWR 3 January 2002 M. Goodman (*Knight, 03 MK 33-1*)

27 MSCNWR 11 January 2014 MW, et al (*ebird*)

33 MSCNWR 4 January 2016 R. Plitt (*ebird*)

35 GBN/N 18 January 1998 C. Fosdick (*ebird*)

Comment

More flexible in habitat choice in winter than when breeding, Occur in both fresh and brackish water situations and can be found in roadside ditches, damp meadows and even dry fallow fields. Usually avoid the cattail beds favored by Marsh Wrens.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Marsh Wren

Cistothorus palustris

General Status

Occurs year round but in summer confined to coastal marshes. More numerous and widespread in winter.

Breeding

196 pairs in a three county survey of coastal marsh. 5 to 15 May 1987 CD, JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

7 (individuals) PRMCP 17 June 2014 MW (*ebird*)

Singing birds have been heard occasionally at Seaman Road and CataN during summer but there is no tangible evidence of breeding in either location.

CBC Data

MSJC: Normal range 30 to 60.

MSSH: Normal range 20-30.

High Counts

100 Seaman Road 20 October 2000 (*Survey Team*)

111 Seaman Road 6 April 2006 (*Survey Team*)

115 Seaman Road 1 December 2005 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Carolina Wren

Thryothorus ludovicianus

General Status

Common to abundant year round in a variety of habitats.

BBS Data

All 6/6. Cyb 12-20; Ben 12-18; Nic 4-35; Lat 6-17.

CBC Data

MSJC: average range 30 to 70

MSSH: average range 50-150

High Counts

33 Spence's Woods 23 March 2013 M. Field (*ebird*)

34 PRWMA 1 March 2009 ZN (*ebird*)

36 Logtown 29 July 2012 J. Remsen (*ebird*)

42 Benndale 1 June 1979 (*BBS*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Bewick's Wren

Thryomanes bewickii

Was a fairly common winter visitor up to the 1940's (*Burleigh, 1944*) and there were scattered records up until the late 1970's. Since then only three have been recorded.

MSJC 20 December 1986

Biloxi 27 October 1994 CD, LE (*pers. comm. CD to JSP*)

Ward Bayou 5 September 1999 KK, JPe (*unpubl. rec.*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

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GNATCATCHERS, KINGLETS *Poliophtilidae, Regulidae*

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher

Poliophtila caerulea

General Status

A permanent resident, particularly numerous during migration from mid March to late April and again from late August to late October. Least numerous in winter.

High Counts

26 migrants in about one half hour at dawn CataN 24 August 2004 NB (*ebird*)

32 PRWMA 13 April 2008 M. MacIntosh (*ebird*)

35 Seaman Road 14 August 2014 (*Survey Team*)

57 PRWMA 15 April 2008 M. MacIntosh (*ebird*)

BBS Data

Cyb 3/6 3-6; Ben 6/6 8-16; Nic 6/6 4-17; Lat 5/6 0-5

CBC Data

MSJC: Normal Range 10-20. Maximum 60 in 1989.

MSSH: Considerable variation, from five or six to 30 to 40.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Regulus satrapa

General Status

Annual winter visitor from early November to mid March. Common only in irregularly occurring incursion years.

Early/Late Dates

Ansley 10 October 1987 TS, JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Hancock Co 12 October 1988 JPe, JT (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Deer Island I 26 March 1942 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Wavelag 26 March 1988 TS (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

PRWMA 1 April 1996 LJ (*ebird*)

Flint Creek 5-6 April 2008 D. Chautin (*ebird*)

Ocean Springs 18 April 1987 MH, JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

CBC Data

MSJC: most years, one or two but occasionally 18 to 20. Maximum 49 1980.

MSSH: most years, two or six but occasionally 40 to 60. Maximum 96 1988.

High Counts

22 Poplarville 28 January 2003 D. Crider (*ebird.*)

37 ORWMA 7 November 2006 NB (*ebird.*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Regulus calendula

General Status

A common to abundant winter visitor from late October to early April.

Early/Late Dates

Jackson Co 14 August 1991. CD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Biloxi 2 September 1987 MB (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Logtown 7 September 1988 CC, JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Logtown 10 September 2011 DR, et al (*ebird*)

ClowerT 13 September 2013 AM (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 15 September 2011 (*Survey Team*)

Gr Bay 25 April 2010 D.Ringer (*ebird*)

Ansley 26 April 2005 M. Gimpel (*ebird*)

Moss Point 26 April 2005 C. Kelley (*ebird*)

Logtown 29 April 2015 GK, JH, JR (*pers comm.*)

Ocean Springs 30 April CD, JPe, et al. (*pers. comm. CD to JSP*)

Heron Bay 2 May 1996 NB (*ebird*)

CBC Data

MSJC: Normal range, 60-125; maximum of 315 in 1976

MSSH; Normal range 200-300.

High Counts

59 PRWMA 26 February 2009 ZN (*ebird*)

67 PRWMA 25 January 2009 ZN (*ebird*)

80 Seaman Road 16 December 2002 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

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THRUSHES, MIMIDAE *Turdidae, Mimidae*

Eastern Bluebird

Sialia sialis

General Status

A common year round resident of country roadsides and suburban yards. May be increasing, at least as a winter visitor. One of the first breeding species to return to the Heron Bay area after Katrina; one pair actually nested in a building remnant.

BBC Data

All 6/6. Cyb 17-21; Ben 10-16; Nic 16-21; Lat 8-17.

CBC Data

MSJC: Average range 50 to 200.

MSSH: Up to the mid 1990's average range was 40 to 50; since then, 175 to 275

High Counts

38 Grand Bay 4 December 2007 JW (*ebird*)

57 PortBien 18 January 2016 JL (*ebird*)

115 Van Cleave 1 December 2013 J. Wilder(*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

TRANSIENT CATHARUS THRUSHES

Occasionally locally common or even abundant during fall-out conditions. But more often only heard as overhead nocturnal migrants, sometimes in remarkable numbers. Specific identification of the latter is often possible (recordings are available) but don't get carried away.

Major periods of passage are essentially the same for all three, mid April to mid May in spring and mid September to late October in fall, though in the fall the **Veery** averages about ten days earlier.

Some idea of relative abundance can be obtained from the data of the USM Migratory Bird Research Group. Of 679 banded over five years (1987-1991) on East Ship Island 41% were **Swainson's**, 36% **Veery** and 23% **Gray-cheeked**.

Veery

Catharus fuscens

Early/Late Dates Spring

ClowerT 12 April 2016 NM, DR (*ebird*)

ClowerT 14 April 2000 NM, et al. (*unpubl. rec.*)

Deer Island 14 May 1942 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Ansley 17 May 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Cat Island 30 August 1938 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Deer Island 31 August 1936 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Ward Bayou 13 October 1996 CD, JPe (*pers. comm. CD to JSP*)

Gulfport 16 October 1939 (*Burleigh 1944*)

ClowerT 16 October 2014 W. Lewis (*ebird*)

Moss Point 23 October 2014 MH (*ebird*)

High Counts

10 Ansley 26 April 2016 JL (*ebird*)

11 East Ship I 8 May 1987 A.Kuenzi (*Hodges, 1987 MK17-2*)

17 Ansley 3 May 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Gray-cheeked Thrush

Catharus minimus

Early/Late Dates Spring

Spence's Woods 5 April MW (*ebird*)

Ansley 6 April 2014 NB (*ebird*)

Deer Island 12 April 1943 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Deer Island 29 May 1936 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Deer Island 31 May 1941 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Deer Island 12 September 1942 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Logtown 2 November 1985 WT, et al (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Jackson Co 6 November 1991 CD, JPe (*pers. comm. CD to JSP*)

High Counts

15 Ansley 9 May 1987 JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

17 GBN/N 26 April 2005 AC (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

COMMENT

Specimens identified as **Bicknell's Thrush** *Catharus bicknelli* were collected by Burleigh at Saucier 23 September 1936 and Deer Island 13 October 1939 but for many years they could not be located.

Now thanks to inquiries made by NW, they have been located at the Smithsonian. However, the following information supplied by Claudia Angle of that institution indicates that they are *minimus* not *bicknelli*. Her communications read:

"I found what I think are the birds you are looking for.... They have the exact localities and dates you listed.

The 09/23/36 bird is USNM 340880, field # 4016 note by Allen Phillips " = small imm. *aliciae?* ARP"

The 10/13/39 bird is USNM 342646, field # 6234 note by Allen Phillips " = small imm. *aliciae??* ARP"

As you know Burleigh noted little data and we do not have his field book.

I had Dick Banks (Mr. AOU) look at the birds and he feels they are both Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus minimus*). If you ever need to look at the birds they are here but apparently *bicknelli* they are not."

Note: "*aliciae*" is a race of *minimus* considered valid by Phillips, but questioned by Marshall and others. See BNA for details-NB

NW further informed me that MMNS has records of two additional *bicknelli* elsewhere in MS though the specimens themselves are lost. However the measurements for one indicate *minimus* and no specs are available for the second.

Finally, during a banding project at Davis Bayou in the spring of 2000, a bird was captured which was identified as *bicknelli*. (Wood and Vilella, 2002 MK 32-2).

In a personal communication to NB, Doug Wood wrote:
“I...banded the bird and released it...it was one of those times we had a lot of birds in nets...the measurements put it in the **Bicknell’s** species but the margin of error was very small.” In summary, it would seem there is no firm evidence that *bicknelli* has occurred in coastal MS.

Swainson’s Thrush

Catharus ustulatus

Early/Late Dates Spring

West Ship I 2 April 2016 OG (*ebird*)

Ansley 9 April 1987 JT (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Horn I 25 May 1976 WW (*Jackson, 1976 MK 6-1*)

West Ship I 31 May 1977 R. Russell (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-2*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

East Ship I 3 September 1987 A.Kuenzi (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Ansley 19 October 2013 NB (*ebird*)

Ansley 21 October 2016 JL (*ebird*)

High Counts

17 Grand Bay 26 April 2005 A. Carrie (*ebird*)

20 Ansley 9 May, 1987 JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

25 Davis Bayou 1 October 1978 WW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Hermit Thrush

Catharus guttatus

General Status

A regular winter visitor from early November to early March, most frequent in extensive mature woodland. An unobtrusive species, it is probably somewhat overlooked.

Early/Late Dates

Hancock Co 15 September, 1991 CD, JPe (*pers. comm. CD to JSP*)

GBN/N 27 April 2005 R. Higbie (*ebird*)

Long Beach 28 April 2015 MS (*ebird*)

Deer Island 4 May 2016 (*ACBS*)

CBC Data

MSJC: Average range, three to six. Maximum, 42 in 1982

MSSH: Average range, ten to twenty. Maximum, 54 in 1984.

High Counts

15 Grand Bay 8 February 2003 MW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Wood Thrush

Hlyocichla mustelina

General Status

A summer resident from early April to mid October. Migratory peaks are mid April to early May and early September to early October. Decreasing as a breeding species throughout its entire range.

Early/Late Dates

Hancock Co 24 March 2000 CD, et al. (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

“coast” 26 March 1937 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Gulf Is Natl Seashore 30 October 2005 JW (*ebird*)

Saucier 1 November 1935 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Logtown 2 November 1985 WT, et al (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

3 Greenwood Cemetery, Pascagoula 3-11 November BJ, et al Photos (*ebird*)

BBS Data

Decline noted on the Benndale BBS is representative.

1995-2002 4-10/yr (eight year total, 56 birds)

2002-2010 1-4/yr (eight year total, 19 birds)

2011-2015 1-5/yr (five year total, 13 birds)

Cyb 6/6 4-8; Ben 6/6 1-5; Nic 4/6 0-9; Lat 1/6 0-1

High Counts

15 Greenwood Cemetery 12 April 2016 BJ (*ebird*)

18 Grand Bay 26 April 2005 AC (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS**Comment**

Plug <*Wood Thrush decline*> into Google for a host of articles. Apparent causes of decline are no big surprise; habitat loss on breeding and winter grounds; acid rain destruction of invertebrate prey.

American Robin

Turdus migratorius

General Status

Has been recorded in every month so technically a permanent resident. But common (sometimes abundant) only as a winter visitor from mid November to early March.

There are a scattering of summer sightings but very few actual breeding records.

Breeding

Never recorded on any of the four BBS routes.

Nest with young 20 May 1983 Lizana L.Necaise (*Jackson 1983 MK 13-2*)

Nest with young June 1986 Saucier photographed JT (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

BBC Data

Only report since program began in 1966: One at Nic in 2

CBC Data

Average range; several hundred to 3000-4000.

11405 MSSH 18 December 2011 over twice any previous count

High Counts

Pearl River Co Winter 2006-2007. Counts of 1000+/-mile of pastures and woodlots were not unusual NB (*unpubl. rec.*)

1500 Stennis Space Center 23 January 2015 E. Wallace (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS**Gray Catbird**

Dumetella carolinensis

General Status

Formerly known only as a common migrant and winter visitor from late September to late April, the catbird is now well established as a breeding species in small numbers. Regular since 2006 near Kiln (five pairs) and Waveland (three pair) JB, NB (*unpubl. recs.*) 2-3 pairs Seaman Road since 2007 (*Survey Team*)

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 1-6; Ben 6/6 2-6; Nic 4/6 0-5; Lat 5/6 0-3.

CBC Data

MSJC, average range 10-20

MSSH, average range 20-30.

High Counts

129 Seaman Road 11 October 2007 (*Survey Team*)

150 Cat Island 13 October 2017 A. Bell (*ebird*)

200+ Jackson County 3 October 1979 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Brown Thrasher

Toxostoma rufum

General Status

Common year round in suitable habitat. Often abundant in migration.

BBS Data

All 6/6. Cyb 8-13; Ben 8-17; Nic 6-14; Lat 4-13.

CBC Data

Average range both CBC's-25 to 35

High Counts

300+ Jackson Co 4 October 1980 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

75 Ansley 7 April 2001 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Sage Thrasher

Oreoscoptes montanus

One Record

W. Ship Is 26-31 October 2014 NB, OG, et al. (*ebird*)

Documentation- Photographs (MSBRC)

Northern Mockingbird

Mimus polyglottos

General Status

Abundant everywhere except in extensive mature woodland.

BBS Data

All 6/6. Cyb 41-49; Ben 21-32; Nic 34-101; Lat 19-37

CBC Data

MSJC, average range 80-200

MSSH, average range 50-150

High Counts

40 Bellebeach 30 September 1978 WW (*ebird*)

40 Diamondhead 25 September 2007 C. Lucker (*ebird*)

50 Ocean Springs Front Beach 9 April 2014 J. Wilder (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

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STARLINGS THROUGH LONGSPURS *Sturnidae through Calcariidae*

European Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

General Status

Though invariably billed as “abundant” it is not nearly so numerous here as it is in many places nor does it show any signs of increasing. May be more numerous in winter or only seem so because of its habit of gathering in large flocks at that season.

BBS Data

All 6/6. Cyb 1-20; Ben 3-10; Nic 12-21; Lat 3-10.

CBC Data

Counts normally range from a few hundred to several hundred. MSJC recorded 4802 in 1984.

High Counts

500 Ocean Springs 19 November 2010 **OG** (*ebird*)

500 Gulfport 25 November 2015 MW (*ebird*)

575 Gulfport 6 February 2012 (ACBS)

800 PRMCP 18 September 2009 **JW** (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

American Pipit

Anthus rubescens

General Status

A winter visitor from early November to late March. Numbers vary considerably from year to year. Occurs regularly in a few favored locales (e.g. Seaman Road) but in many places noted only by its distinctive call note as it passes overhead in migration.

Early/Late Dates

Biloxi 30 September 1978 P. Donaldson (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

East Ship I 1 October 1980 MH (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

Jackson Co 1 May 1996 CD, DMc, GM, et al (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Saucier 2 May 1941 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Lyman 5 May 1943 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

CBC Data

Fluctuates considerably on both CBC's: only one or two some years, in others, 100 to 200.

High Counts

78 Seaman Road 19 January 2012 (*Survey Team*)

85 Seaman Road 26 February 2013 (*Survey Team*)

120 Henleyfield 5 March 2014 OG (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Sprague's Pipit

Anthus spragueii

General Status

Only seven records to date which seems low. Finding this species usually requires a deliberate search in the correct habitat. Most accounts (*e.g.*, BNA) specify well-drained fields of native grasses without shrubs. But stubble and fallow fields are also used; the 1990 and 2006 records were from that sort of habitat. All were singles.

Bay St Louis 1 January 1902 collected Allison (*Turcotte and Watts, 1999*)

Jackson Co 18 December 1976. LG (*Jackson and Weber, 1977 MK 7-12*)

MSJC 17 December 1977

Gulfport 13 November 1983 JT et al. (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)

Hancock Co 29 November 1984 DaK, JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

PortBien 18 November 1990 NB (*ebird*)

CataS 21 November 2006 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen USNM

Cedar Waxwing

Bombycilla cedrorum

General Status

A sometimes scarce, occasionally abundant, winter visitor from early November to mid April.

Early/Late Dates

3 Graveline Beach 5 October 2014 (*ACBS*)

“Coast” 12 October, 1936 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Horn Island 24 May 1979 JJ, et al. (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-1*)

Horn Island 26 May 1976 WW (*Jackson, 1976 MK 6-1*)

Saucier 29 May 1937 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

CBC Data

Usual tallies 200-300 but in some years only 8 to 10. Maxima for both counts were in 1996; 517 for MSJC, 828 for MSSH.

High Counts

315 Logtown 5 April 2014 N. Donald (*ebird*)

400 Pascagoula 25 February 2012 B. Gannon, P. Russo (*ebird*)

A remarkable invasion in the late winter of 2005-2006 (mid January-February). Congregations of several hundred to a few thousand birds were noted in numerous places, including urban/commercial locales.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

*Lapland Longspur

Calcarius lapponicus

Fourteen records between early December and mid January.

Earliest /Latest

Horn I. 30 November 2011 M. Sieges, et al. (*ebird*)

Clermont Harbor 15 December 2004 NB (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

Kiln 11 January 1987 TS (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)
3 Nicholson 9-17 January 1958 AT (*MOS Newsletter Vol 3-1958*)

High Count

4 Lyman 5 January 2001 DCi (*Knight, 2002 MK 32-1*)

Documentation Needed

Comment

On 29 December 1987 two longspurs seen at Kiln were deemed to be either **Chestnut-collared** or **McCown's Longspurs** (JT). At the time neither species had been recorded in the state, since then both have been. Stay alert (but first read *Birding October, 2003 35:5 508-514*. You'll find it sobering.).

[HOME](#)

WOOD-WARBLERS Parulidae

Ovenbird

Seiurus aurocapilla

General Status

A common transient in April and again from mid August to mid October.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Gr Bay 30 March 2005 AC (*ebird*)

Bellebeach 31 March 1962 HH (*Haberyan, 1962*)

ClowerT 7 April 2000 NM (*unpubl. rec.*)

ClowerT 15 May 2004 NB, AM (*ebird*)

Deer Island 17 May 1942 (Burleigh, 1944)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Gulfport 15 August 1988 JT (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Logtown 22 August 1984 DaK, JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

Bay St L 28 October 2000 DB, JB (*pers. comm. JB to JSP*)

Hiller Park 1 November 2015 HC (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 8 November 2013 (*Survey Team*)

Kiln 6 December 1984 JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Numbers

Usually only one or two/day; occasionally 5 to 6 in cheniers during a fallout. Maximum,

8 Gr Bay 26 April 2005 AC (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Worm-eating Warbler

Helminthos vermivorum

General Status

A regular transient in small numbers from late March to late April and from early August to late September.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Logtown 19 March 1982 JT (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

Spence's Woods 19 March 1999 DB, JB (*unpubl. rec.*)

Bellebeach 4 May 1997 CD, DMc (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

ORWMA 18 May 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Pass Christian 27 July 2000 JD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Deer Island 31 July 1936 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

ORWMA 5 August 2015 JL (*ebird*)

Jackson Co 1 October 1996. CD, LJ (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Wavelag 2 November 1985 GM, et al. (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

High Count

8 Greenwood Cemetery 17 April 2016 BJ (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Louisiana Waterthrush

Parkesia motacilla

General Status

A regular transient from mid March to mid April and early July to early October. Status as a breeding species uncertain.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Saucier 8 March 1939 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Seaman Road 17 March 2013 J. King (*ebird*)

2 East Ship 18 March 1978. WW (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Deaton Preserve 18 March 2014 MW (*ebird*)

Jackson Co 16 April 1996 CD, LJ (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Logtown 21 April 1984 singing male (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

ORWMA 1 May 2006 NB (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

East Ship I 29 June 1978 WW (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

“Coast” 9 July 1937 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Wavelag 17 October 1987 WMD, JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Hancock Co. 26 October 1997 CD, et al. (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Breeding

There are several reports, sometimes of singing males, from late May and through June from western Hancock Co. (Logtown) north and west through George Co. Turcotte and Watts show much of this area as being within the breeding range but offer no specifics. In BCM it is noted as a breeding species at the Nature Conservancy’s Deaton Preserve that straddles the border between George and Greene Cos.

High Counts

7 Seaman Road 29 August 2014 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Northern Waterthrush

Parkesia noveboracensis

General Status

A common transient from early April to mid May and from mid August to mid October.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Waveland 27 March 1984 JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

ClowerT 27 March 2014 OG (*ebird*)

Bay St L 31 March 2006 JB (*pers comm. to NB*)

East Ship I 10-11 May 1977 WW (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-2*)
Gulfport 17 May 1942 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Jackson Co 8 August 1990 CD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)
ORWMA 8 August 2015 HC (*ebird*)
Logtown 23 October 1984 JD, JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)
“coast” 24 October 1941 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

High Counts

Usually only one or two per sighting in spring. Can be numerous in fall, e.g.
17 Logtown 22 August 2005 NB (*ebird*).
20 Grand Bay 26 April 2005 AC (*ebird*).

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Bachman’s Warbler

Vermivora bachmanii

There are four records for the state, all collected specimens from the coast. There are no records of this species breeding anywhere in Mississippi, though from its known range it is reasonable to assume that it may have.

Bay St L 26 March 1902 A. Allison (*Allison 1906, Auk 23:232-233*)
Bay St L 4 July 1906 A. Allison (*Allison 1906, Auk 23:232-233*)
Deer Island I 21 March 1941 (*Burleigh, 1944*)
Ship Island 28 February 1949 taken during an encephalitis study (*Sciple, 1950 Auk 67:520*)

Documentation-Specimen USNM

Golden-winged Warbler

Vermivora chrysoptera

General Status

A rare transient in April and again from early August to late September. No records of more than 2/sighting.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Biloxi 7 April 1992 GM (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)
East Ship Island 9 April 1989 F. Moore, et al. (*Schiefer, 1992 MK 20-1*)
Gulfport 10 April 1936 (*Burleigh, 1944*)
Jackson Co 7 May 2006 C. Kelley (*ebird*)
Deer Island 7 May 2013 OG (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

“coast” 28 July 1941 (*Burleigh, 1944*)
Gulfport 4 August 1942 (*Burleigh, 1944*)
Ocean Springs 28 October 1984 D. Ruple (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)
Hancock Co 3 November 1985 LG, TGa (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Blue-winged Warbler

Vermivora cyanoptera

General Status

A regular transient from late March to late April and from mid August to early September. Usually no more than three or four per sighting.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Bellebeach 24 March 1989 TS (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Gulfport 27 March 1937 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Henleyfield 27 March 2014 NB (*ebird*)

Ocean Springs 30 April 1996 CD, JPe, et al. (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Ansley 1 May 2005 M. Gimpel (*ebird*)

ClowerT 5 May 2013 NB (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

ORWMA 7 August 2016 NB (*ebird*)

Latimer 8 August 1976 WW (*Jackson and Weber, 1976 MK 6-2*)

Henleyfield 10 August 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Waveland 23 October 1984 JD, JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

Waveland 15 November 1985 MH, DaK, GM (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Winter

MSJC: 29 December 1987.

Only the second CBC record ever for the AL to LA area. The other was in LA in 1979.

High Counts

10 Seaman Road 18 September 2000 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Hybrid Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warblers

“Brewster” type

Four sight records Descriptions do not seem to be available.

Bellebeach 28 April 1962 SC, LEW (*Clawson and Williams, 1962*)

Logtown 20 September 1983 JT (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)

BuccSP 25 September 1982 JT, et al (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

Davis Bayou 2 October 1989 CC, JPe (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

“Lawrence” type

Two records

Adult male Ansley 11 April 2003 NB KM, et al. banded and photographed by KM (*ebird*)

Adult male Gr Bay 6- 8 April 2009 JW (*ebird*)

Black-and-white Warbler

Mniotilta varia

General Status

A common transient from early March to late April and from late July to late October. Frequently lingers into December and occasionally overwinters.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Boneyard Lake 1 March 2017 LJ (*ebird*)

Deer Island 4 March 1934 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

ClowerT 16 March 2014 AM (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 17 March 2016 (*Survey Team*)

East Ship I 8 March 1978 WW (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Ansley 9 May 1987 JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

“coast” 14 May 1942 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Henleyfield June 1 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Early Dates Fall

Horn I. 4 Jul 2000 A. Duchein (*pers comm. to JSP.*)

Saucier 8 July 1936 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Late Fall/Winter

Numerous records into January (e.g., recorded on fourteen different CBCs).

Latest winter (or earliest spring?)

3 Spence’s Woods 24 February 1991 GO (*Schiefer, 1992 MK 22-2*)

High Counts

250 Cat I 1 April 1962 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

34 Ansley 10 April 1989 NB (*ebird*)

15 Hancock Co 5 October 1985 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Prothonotary Warbler

Protonotaria citrea

General Status

A common summer resident in swampy bottomlands from mid March to mid September.

10 territorial males in three miles 2 June, 2007 Pearl River Co NB (*unpubl. rec.*)

Early Dates

Harrison Co 1 March 1965 (*Turcotte, 1965*)

Bay St L 3 March 1988 LS (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Ocean Springs 8 March 1982 JT, et al. (*Imhof, 1982 Am Birds 36: 861-864*)

Early Fall-Non-Breeding Locales

Horn I 4 August 1976 WW (*Jackson and Weber, 1976 MK 6-2*)

Deer Island 15 August 1942 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Late Fall

Deer Island 27 September 1940 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Grand Bay 29 September 2009 JW (*ebird*)

Henleyfield 30 September 2014 NB (*ebird*)

Jackson Co. 4 October 1989 CD, LJ (*pers. comm. CD to JSP*)

Wavelag 11 November 1985 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

MSJC: 18 December 1976

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 1-3; Ben 6/6 1-5; Nic 5/6 0-6; Lat 3/6 0-1

High Counts

42 PRWMA 19 April 2008 N. Banfield (*ebird*)

300+ Jackson Co 7 April 1961 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Spring counts of 10 to 30/locale are more the norm.

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Swainson’s Warbler *Limnothlypis swainsonii*

General Status

A regular but local summer resident of bottomland woods, normally found near a growth of cane. Migrants occur regularly in the coastal cheniers but are great skulkers with a remarkable superficial resemblance to Carolina Wren and can be overlooked.

Early/Late Dates

Camp Wilkes, Harrison Co. 18 March 2013 P. Carter (*ebird*)

Logtown 19 March 1982 JT (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

Logtown 25 March 2000 JT, et al. (*unpubl. rec.*)

Bellebeach 11 October 1979 JT (*Jackson and Schardien, 1980 MK-10-1*)

Logtown 11 October 1982 JT (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

Breeding

Pair with dependent young 12 June, 2003 Logtown NB, AM (*unpubl. rec.*)

Normally two to four pairs in the Logtown area and one or two pairs at Spence's Woods.
m.obs.

4-5 territorial males in about five miles ORWMA June 2006, 2007-NB (*unpubl. rec.*)

BBS Data

Nic twice: 1, 1989, 1, 2015; Ben 1986-1991 4/6 1-3, none since; Cyb and Lat never recorded.

Documentation-Specimen UCLA

Tennessee Warbler

Oreothlypis peregrina

General Status

A common transient from early April to early May and again from mid September to mid October. Often numerous.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Gulfport 27 March 1978 JT (*Jackson and Cooley, 1987 MK 8-2*)

Davis Bayou 31 March 1979 LG, JT (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-1*)

Spence's Woods 3 April 2010 JW (*ebird*)

Deer Island 7 May 1941 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Deer Island 7 May 1942 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Ansley 7 May 2016 NB (*ebird*)

Escatawpa 8 May C. Kelley (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Gulfport 5 September 1942 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Gulfport 6 November 2000 JT (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Wavelag 18 November 1985 MH, JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Seaman Road 18 November 2004 (*Survey Team*)

CBC Data

Reported once on MSSH and three times on MSJC, all in the mid 1980's.

High Counts

30 Hancock Co 23 April 1983 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

45 Ansley 28 April 2000 NB (*ebird*)

150+ Hancock Co 2 November 1985 Hurricane Juan (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

80 to 100 Wavelag 27 September 2002 NB Hurricane Isadore (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Orange-crowned Warbler

Oreothlypis celata

General Status

A widespread but unobtrusive winter visitor present in small numbers from early October to mid April.

Early/Late Dates

Waveland 15 September 1984 MH, JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

Seaman Road 15 September 2011 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 16 September 2003 (*Survey Team*)

Bellebeach 18 September 1982 TG (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

Logtown 19 April 1989 P.Svingen (*ebird*)

Biloxi 21 April 1943 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Logtown 23 April 1983 JT, et al. (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)

Logtown 26 April 1984 MB, JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

High Counts

11 Gulfport 16 October 1977 JT (*Weber and Jackson, 1978 MK 8-1*)

15-20 ORWMA 24 October 2006 NB (*ebird*)

21 PRWMA 26 February 2009 ZN (*ebird*)

CBC average ranges: MSSH, 15 to 35; MSJC, 10-20.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Comment

Nashville Warbler

Oreothlypis ruficapilla

General Status

Though a fairly regular transient just to the east and west of us, here it is principally a rare fall and accidental spring migrant. Most reports are from early September to mid October.

Spring-six or seven records

Earliest

Davis Bayou 11 April 2002 SW (*Knight, 2003 MK 33-1*)

Latest

Boneyard Lake PRWMA P. Blank, E. Parker (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Wavelag 29 August 1987 JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Hancock Co 20 October 20 1986 JT (*Purrington 1987 Am Birds 41:99-104*)

Hancock Co 1 November 2004 CK (*ebird*)

Moss Point 3 November 1985 LG, TG (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Winter

PRM 25 February 1989 CD (*pers comm. to JSP*)

This is the only winter record for MS or AL. There are several for LA and central FL.

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Connecticut Warbler

Oporornis agilis

Six records to date.

Within its normal range this species is noted as a late migrant spring and fall.
Bellebeach 10 May 1978 MH (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)
East Ship I 15 May 1988 Banded (*USM Migratory Bird Research Group*)
Gulfport 7 October 1962 HH (*Turcotte and Watts, 1999*)
Bellebeach 5 November 1977 JT, et al. (*Weber and Jackson, 1978 MK 8-1*)
Hancock Co December 27 1993 CD (*Delmas, 1993 MK-23-2*)
East Ship I (?) May 1991 Banded (*USM Migratory Bird Research Group*)
Documentation-Banded (*USM Migratory Bird Research Group*)

Mourning Warbler

Geothlypis Philadelphia

Spring –two records

PWMA 29 April 1999 J. Buler (*Schiefer, 2001 MK 31-1*)
Heron Bay 21 May 2004 NB (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

Fall-about eighteen records

Earliest

Pt Bienville 2 September 2017 BB, JL (*ebird*)

Latest

PWMA 2 October 2002 J. Breeden (*Knight, 2003 MK 33-1*)
Wavlag 2 October 2004 M. Mehaffey (*ebird*)
Gr Bay 6 October 2009 JW (*ebird*)
Deer Island 6 October 2015 OG (*ebird*)
Grand Bay 9 October 2006 JW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen Burleigh, 1944

Comment

A report from Logtown, 18 April 1996 that appeared in the earlier version of this list has been deleted. It was cited as a pers. comm. to JSP but no written account was ever published. The date is extraordinarily early.

Comment

Per a suggestion by PL, observers should be alert for the very similar **MacGillivray's Warbler** *Geothlypis tolmiei*. The few records from coastal LA suggest that it is most likely to occur earlier in spring (mid April) and later in fall (October-December) than Mourning Warbler

Kentucky Warbler

Geothlypis formosa

General Status

A regular summer resident of rich bottomlands from early April to early September. Migratory peaks are mid April and late August.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Pearl River Co 23 March 2012 NB (*ebird*)
Logtown 29 March 1982 JT (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)
ClowerT 29 March 2000 AM (*unpubl. rec.*)
Ship I 1 May 1940 (*Burleigh, 1944*)
Ansley 3 May 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Grand Bay 16 September 2002 MW (*ebird*)
Wavelag 17 October 1987 WMD, JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)
MSCNWR 18 October 1997 CD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Breeding

A characteristic woodland species across the northern portion of the Region. Occurs south to Logtown in the west but otherwise absent from most of the area south of I-10.

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 3-7; Ben 6/6 1-4; Nic 3/6 1-2; Lat1/6 0-1.

High Counts

6 Hancock Co 29 April 2004 J. Berry (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Common Yellowthroat

Geothlypis trichas

General Status

A common summer resident, abundant migrant and regular winter visitor.

High Counts

150 Ansley 15 April 2001 NB (*ebird*)

250+ Jackson Co 23 October 1979. (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

300+ CataN 28 September 2006 NB (*ebird*)

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 4-13; Ben 6/6 3-8 Nic 6/6 8-12; Lat 5/6 5-16.

Winter

MSSH: Average counts, 20 to 60.

MSJC: Average counts, 10 to 30.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Hooded Warbler

Setophaga citrina

General Status

A very common summer resident from mid March to mid October.

Early/Late Dates

Hancock Co 8 March 1999 GM, et al. (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Deer Island I 14 March 1943 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

ClowerT 19 October 2002 BD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Ocean Springs 20 October 2006 JW (*ebird*)

Grand Bay 22 October 2007 JW (*ebird*)

Wavelag 11 November 1985 LG, TGa, JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

High Counts

25 Ansley 25 March 1988 CC, GM, JT (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

35 Greenwood Cemetery 12-13 April 2016 BJ, LJ (*ebird*)

100+ Ansley 17 April 1999 NB (*ebird*)

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 7-9; Ben 6/6 5-13; Nic 6/6 7-14; Lat 3/6 1-2.

Documentation-Specimen USNM

American Redstart

Setophaga ruticilla

General Status

A common transient and local summer resident from mid April to late May and from mid July to early October.

Early/Late Dates

Gulfport 27 March 1937 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Grand Bay 28 March 2005 AC (*ebird*)

Harrison Co 1 April 1936 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Davis Bayou 4 April 2000 NM (*unpubl. rec.*)

Ship I 21 May 1987 CD JT (*pers. comm. CD to JSP*)

Van Cleave 30 May 1978 WW (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Pass Christian 5 July 1987 JD (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Gulfport 10 November 1937 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Wavelag 18 November 1985 MH, JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Seaman Road 18 December 2017 (*Survey Team*)

Seaman Road 11 December 2014 (*Survey Team*)

Breeding

Nests regularly in small numbers in ORWMA and at least occasionally at Santa Rosa, Hancock Co. (nest with young, 1989; singing males most years-NB)

Female with dependent young seen at PRWMA in 1984 (GM, JT)

High Counts

30 Hancock Co 13 October 1982 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

50+ Hancock Co 2 November 1985 Hurricane Juan (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

100 Ansley 12 April 1988 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Cape May Warbler

Setophaga tigrina

General Status

One of the "eastern" warblers, rare in spring and accidental in fall. Most sightings are from late April and early May.

Early/Late Dates Spring

East Ship I 20 April 1979 S. Umland. (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-1*)

West Ship I 20 April 1989 FM, et al (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Greenw I 20 April 1996 CD, DMc (*pers. comm. CD to JSP*)

East Ship I 25 May 1977 RPR (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-2*)

All Fall Records

Biloxi October 9 1981 JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-2*)

Wavelag October 10 1987 MWD, JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Wavelag October 19 1984 MWD, JT, et al. (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

Wavelag November 2 1985 MOS field trip (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Wavelag November 12 1985 MH, JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

High Count

11 Horn I 24 April 2004 SD (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

Comment

On 2 November 1985 a great number of West Indian wintering warblers were swept onto the coast following Hurricane *Juan*. Among them were a remarkable 25+ Cape Mays seen on an MOS field trip to Waveland Lagoon. Numerous references to this date and the days immediately following are noted in the warbler accounts. For a full account see *Toups 1995, Birding 27:2 95-100*

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Cerulean Warbler

Setophaga cerulea

General Status

Currently a rare transient in April and again in August. Formerly more common.

Early/Late Dates Spring

CataS 5 April 2014 JH, et al (*ebird*)

Belle Fontaine 6 April 2014 OG (*ebird*)

Harrison Co 7 April 1936 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Biloxi 8 April 1991 SM (*Schiefer, 1992 MK 22-2*)

Davis Bayou 8 April 1991 CC (*Schiefer, 1992 MK 22-2*)

Ocean Springs 30 April 1996 CD, et al. (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Jackson Co 1 May 1996 CD, et al. (*pers. comm. CD to JSP*)

Ansley 1 May 2017 JL (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Gulfport 26 July 1941 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Gulfport 28 July 1937 (*Burleigh 1944*)

ORWMA 30 September 2014 NB (*ebird*)

ORWMA 31 July 2012 NB (*ebird*)

BuccSP 15 October 1986 JT, et al. (*Jackson and Hodges, 1986 MK 16-2*)

High Count

7 Ansley 12 April 2013 NB (*ebird*)

Comment

Considered rare in spring by Burleigh (six records 1936-1943) and fairly common in fall, when found almost exclusively along forested mainland streams.

Toups and Jackson (1986) considered it much reduced overall but relatively more frequent in spring. The latter observation, however, is probably strongly influenced by observer predilections. Currently it is rare but regular at both seasons with fall locales much in accord with Burleigh's findings.

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Northern Parula

Setophaga americana

General Status

A common summer resident of mature hardwoods and an abundant migrant throughout from early March to late October.

Early/Late Dates

Ocean Springs 22 February 1989 CD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Gulfport 9 November 2000 JT (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Gulfport 16 November 1985 JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Numbers-Migrants

73 Jackson Co 31 March 1981 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

81 PRWMA 17 March 2009 ZN (*ebird*)

100+ Ansley 12 April 1998 NB (*ebird*)

Breeding

Logtown 16 (individuals? pairs?) 12 June 1982 (Toups and Jackson, 1987)

Disappeared from Ansley and seemed much reduced at Logtown (four or five singing males in approximately one mile) in the two years following *Katrina* Recovery has been slow.

BBS Data

Only once is history of all counts: Ben 2015

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Comment

Decline in breeding pairs following *Katrina* may have been due to change in the configuration of the canopy and/or *Tillandsia* (Spanish Moss) being stripped from trees. See *Abstracts, Nature Conservancy, Northern Parula- Para IV: Condition: Hurricanes.*

***Tropical Parula**

Setophaga pitiayumi

One sight record-new for the state.

Logtown 13 September 1990 JT (*Schiefer, 1991 MK 21-1*)

Documentation-Needed

Comment

Species appears on the state list on the basis of this record, so presumably a report was submitted to, and accepted by, the MBRC. However no detailed account was ever published nor is it listed in either BCM or BOM.

Magnolia Warbler

Setophaga magnolia

General Status

A regular transient, common in spring from late April to late May and abundant in fall from mid September to early November.

Early/Late Dates Spring

East Ship I 19 April 1989 Banded FM (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Horn I May 25 1976 WW (*Jackson, 1976 MK 6-1*)

Davis Bayou 2 June 1982 JT, et al. (*Jackson, 1982 K 13-2*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Waveland 31 August 1988 CC, GM, JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Hancock Co 4 September 1987 CC, CD, GM (*pers. comm., CD to JSP*)

Davis Bayou 5 September 2012 JW (*ebird*)

West Ship I 31 October 2015 OG, MS, et al (*ebird*)

Hancock Co 15 November 1989. JT (*Schiefer 1990 MK 20-1*)

Hancock Co 18 November 1985 JT (*Hodges 1985 MK 15-2*)

Winter

There are 4 mid December CBC records and one collected at Gulfport 11 January 1942. (*Burleigh 194*)

High Counts

22 Ansley 5 May 2004 NB (*ebird*)

35 Wavelag 2 November 1985. See note under **Cape May Warbler**.

50 Hancock Co 13 October 1982 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Bay-breasted Warbler

Setophaga castanea

General Status

A regular transient from mid April to mid May and in October. Occasional individuals may linger into early winter.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Deer Island 19 April 1943 collected (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Biloxi 19 April 1992 SM (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

Greenwood Cemetery 19 April 2015 BJ (*ebird*)

Horn I 25 May 1976 WW (*Jackson, 1976 MK 6-1*)

Deer Island 29 May 1936 collected (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Gulfport 18 September 1978 JT (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Seaman Road 23 October 2014 (*Survey Team*)

Saucier 24 October 1935 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Gulfport 11 November 1985 JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

CBC Data

MSJC: 1979, 1985 and 1988.

High Counts

15 Ansley 1 May 2017 JL (*ebird*)

15 Horn Island 20 April 1978 WW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen-MMNS

Blackburnian Warbler

Setophaga fusca

General Status

A regular transient in spring from mid April to early May and in fall from late August to mid October. Usually one to seven per sighting.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Gulfport 27 March 1937 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Waveland 27 March 1958 (*Turcotte, 1958*)

Saucier 28 March 1936 (*Burleigh 1944*)

West Ship I 29 March 2014 OG

Gulfport 24 May 1979 JT (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-1*)

Horn I 26 May 1976 WW (*Jackson, 1976 MK 6-1*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Gulfport 14 August 1982 JT (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

Grand Bay 23 August 2002 MW (*ebird*)

Gulfport 27 August 1942 (*Burleigh 1944*) (*ebird*)

Logtown 27 August 2013 C. Thomas, J. Robin (*ebird*)

Hancock Co 22 October 2011 SE, et al. (*ebird*)
Hancock Co 4 November 2011 B. Stacey (*ebird*)
Gulfport 17 November 1985 JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)
MSJC: 21 December 1985 and 31 December 1988.
Documentation Specimen MMNS

Yellow Warbler

Setophaga petechia

General Status

A transient; regular in spring from early April to early May and abundant in fall from late July to mid October. Tallies of 80-100/day are commonplace in late August, early September in places like CataS and Seaman Road. A few linger well into December but there are no true winter records.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Seaman Road 4 March 2010 (*Survey Team*)
Van Cleave 28 March 1986 CD, MH, JT (*pers. comm. to JSP*)
Seaman Road 1 April 1998 (*Survey Team*)
Seaman Road 3 June 1998 (*Survey Team*)
Ocean Springs 4 June 1978 WW (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)
Greenwood I 7 June 2017 (*ACBS*)
Seaman Road 8 June 2017 (*Survey Team*)
Jackson Co 30 June 1989 CC, CD, et al. (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Summer

Sporadic sightings through summer months.

Early/Late Dates Fall

PRM 12 July 1983 MH (*Jackson, 1983 Am Birds 37: 996-998*)
Seaman Road 15 July 2011 *Seaman Road*
Seaman Road 9 November 1994 MB, SM, et al (*Survey Team*)
Hancock Co 25 November 1983 JD, JT (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)
Jackson Co 25 November 1980 MK, JT (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)
Seaman Road 30 November 2017 (*Survey Team*)

CBC Data

MSJC: 18 December 1976 and 19 December 1987

High Counts

26 Grand Bay April 26 2005 AC (*ebird*)
30 Ansley 29 April 1989 NB (*ebird*)
135 Seaman Road 1 September 2011 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Setophaga pensylvanica

A regular transient from mid April to early May and early September to late October. Typically 1-2/sighting

Early/Late Dates Spring

Ansley 7 April 2012 NB (*ebird*)
ClowerT 12 April 2016 NM, DR (*ebird*)

Ocean Springs 21 May 1989 JPe (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Summer- One record

Davis Bayou 14 June 2014 singing male photographed D. Hollis (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Waveland 31 August 1988 CC, JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Bellebeach 11 October 1979 JT (*Jackson and Schardien, 1980 MK 10-1*)

MSCNWR 23 October 1994 D. Forsythe (*ebird*)

Wavelag 18 November 1985 LG, TGa, JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Toups and Jackson, 1987 cite a “January 6” but provide no further details.

High Counts

10 Jackson Co 4 May 1978 LG, JT (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

10 ORWMA 8 September 2008 NB (*ebird*)

12 Hancock Co 25 September 1985. (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Blackpoll Warbler

Setophaga striata

General Status

A rare but regular spring transient from mid April to mid May. Norm is 1 to 5/sighting. Accidental in fall.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Clower T 6 April 2014 MW (*ebird*)

Ansley 11 April 2013 NB (*ebird*)

East Ship Island 15 April 1987 A. Kuenzi (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

West Ship Island 16 April 1979 S. Umland (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-1*)

Gulfport 27 May 1936 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Pearl River Co 2 June 2013 NB (*ebird*)

Two Fall Sight Records

Hancock Co 2 November 1985. LG, TGa (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

(probably a part of the Hurricane *Juan* phenomenon)

Wavelag 18 October 1992 NB (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

Numbers

12 coastal Jackson Co 22 April 2004 SD. An exceptionally high count. (*fide, JSP*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Setophaga caerulescens

General Status

A casual transient in April and early September to late October.

Seldom more than one per sighting.

Early/Late Dates Spring

West Ship I 2 April 2016 OG (*ebird*)

Pascagoula marshes 11 April 2007 JW (*ebird*)

Bellebeach 15 April 1979 LG, JT (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-1*)

East Ship I 5 May 1987 A. Kuenzi (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

West Ship I 6 May 1978 K. Link. (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

ClowerT 8 September 1999 CB, NM (*unpubl rec.*)

Waveland 5 November 1988 D.Carroll (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Waveland 6 November 1985 LG, JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Documentation-Specimen USNM

Palm Warbler

Setophaga palmarum

General Status

A fairly common winter visitor from mid September to early April. Maximum numbers are normally present in mid April and early to mid October. Wintering birds are mostly *hypochrysea* (“yellow” Palm Warbler); *palmarum* (“western” Palm Warbler) occurs commonly as a transient.

Early/Late Dates

Hancock Co 5 September 1977 JT (*Weber and Jackson, 1978 MK 8-1*)

Seaman Road 10 September 2009 (*Survey Team*)

Hancock Co 12 September 1985 DAK, GM, JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Bellebeach 25 April 1979 JT (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-2*)

Cat Island 29 April 2011 J. Wang (*ebird*)

East Ship I 2 May 1987 A.Kuenzi (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

CBC Data

MSSH: Normal range 10 to 40. Maximum, 82 in 1998.

MSJC: Normal range 15 to 50.

High Counts

100+ Seaman Road 4 October 1987 GM, JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

116 Seaman Road 30 October 2014 (*Survey Team*)

168 Seaman Road 15 October 2015 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Pine Warbler

Setophaga pinus

General Status

A common permanent resident throughout. Maximum numbers occur in winter when northern birds are present. Though pine based, it forages through a wide variety of habitat, particularly in winter. Regularly found in active, roving flocks of as many as 20 to 30 birds. Often feeds on the ground.

BBS Data

All 6/6. Cyb 3-8; Ben 5-8; Nic 6-16; Lat 3-9

CBC Data

MSSH: usual counts are 100 to 200; maximum, 488 in 1994.

MSJC: usual counts, 50 to 100+

High Counts

43 Hancock Co 27 February 2016 DR (*ebird*)

44 Seaman Road 6 August 2009 (*Survey Team*)

56 Red Creek WMA 9 February 2018 MW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Setophaga coronata

General Status

An abundant winter visitor from mid October to early April.

Early/Late Dates

Jackson Co 19 September 2005 JW (*ebird*)

BelleBeach 24 September 2002 S. Schwenk (*ebird*)

Bellebeach 30 September 1978 JT (*Purrington, 1979 Am Birds 32: 215-220*)

Gulfport 6 May 1987 JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Henleyfield 8 May 2006 NB (*ebird*).

Singing River I 22 May 2016 BJ photo (*ebird*).

CBC Data

MSSH: Normal range is 2000-5000; maximum, 10056 in 1994.

MSJC: Normal range is 600-2000.

High Counts

600 CataN 18 December 2012 NB (*ebird*)

650 Bellefontaine 4 January 2016 BJ, et al (*ebird*)

Comment

There are 7-8 records of the western (*auduboni*) form.. They are fairly evenly scattered from early November to late March. Latest date was a well described male at Gulfport 14 April 2009 NM. For most of the others, not much is offered in the way of detailed description. Some could have been hybrids. Future occurrences seem reasonable.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS (*coronata*)

Yellow-throated Warbler

Setophaga dominica

General Status

Occurs as a local summer resident and rare winter visitor but known through most of the Region as a sparse migrant from early March to mid April and late August to mid October.

Early/Spring/Fall

Maximum 17 Isolated chenier in Ansley Marsh 27 March 1989 NB (*ebird*)

Singing male ORWMA 5 March 2012 perhaps over-wintering NB (*ebird*)

Horn Island 8 August 1977 (*fide, JSP*) may have been an early migrant or a summering non-breeder.

Breeding

14 singing males/2 miles 19 May 1993 Pearlington. (*ebird*.) This site has long been clear-cut but breeding birds still occur through the Pearl River bottoms from Logtown north.

CBC Data

MSSH twelve times

MSJC, four times.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Prairie Warbler

Setophaga discolor

General Status

The Prairie Warbler began spreading into this region about forty years ago and is now a localized summer resident from mid April to late September. Availability of habitat here might be described as due to “inadvertent management” as it utilizes the earlier successive stages following clear cutting.

Early/Late Dates

DeSoto NF 20 March 2009 JW (*ebird*)

Saucier 22 March 2015 A. Sabatini (*ebird*)

DeSoto NF 24 March 2012 NB (*ebird*)

DeSoto NF 24 March 2015 J. Sipiora (*ebird*)

Deer Island 29 October 1941 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Wavelag 11 November 1985 MH (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Seaman Road 1 December 2016 photo (*Survey Team*)

High Counts

34 singing males Texas Flat Road 22 May 1986 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

40 Red Creek WMA 8 April 2015 H.jordan (*ebird*)

BBS Data

Cyb 0; Ben 5/6 3-7; Nic 6/6 1-6; Lat 6/6 3-28

Winter

Lakeshore 28-29 December 1988 T. Heatley (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Logtown 12 January 1983 JD, JT (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)

Jackson Co 14 February 1983 DaK, et al (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

***Black-throated Gray Warbler**

Setophaga nigrescens

Six records to date.

Strays eastward with some regularity and will doubtless be sighted here again.

Pascagoula 12 March 1998 LJ (*Knight, 1999 MK 29-2*)

Bellebeach 23 March 1992 CC, GM, JT (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

Bellebeach 14 April 1983 MB, JT (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)

Pass Christian 22 September 1957 A. J. Evans (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

Gulfport 26-28 September 1960 HH (*Haberyan, 1960*)

Logtown 2 November 1985 LG, TGa (*Hodges, 1985 MK 157-2*)

Documentation-Needed

Townsend's Warbler

Setophaga townsendi

One specimen record

Gulfport collected 17 September 1939 (*Burleigh 1944*)

One sight record

MSJC 25 December 1992. The CBC database provides no information on this sighting

Documentation- Specimen LSUMZ

Comment

BBMC shows the year of the Burleigh specimen incorrectly as 1938

Black-throated Green Warbler

Setophaga virens

General Status

A regular transient from early April to early May and from mid September to late October. Usually one to six per sighting. There are two December sightings but no evidence of over-wintering.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Hancock Co 18 March 1997 CD, LE, et al. (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Gulfport 24 March 1942 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Horn I 12 May 1937 (*Burleigh 1944*)

ORWMA 17 May 2014 NB (*ebird*)

Horn I 24 May 1976 WW (*Jackson, 1976 MK 6-1*)

Henleyfield singing male 11 June 2006 NB (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Gulfport 16 August 1977 JT (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 8-1*)

Hancock Co 8 September 1994 CD, et al. (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Gulfport 18 November 1939 (*Burleigh 1944*)

Gulfport 19 November 1985 JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 157-2*)

Winter- three records

Bay St L 16 December 1985 LS (*Jackson, 1986 MK 16-1*)

MSSH 18 December 1985

MSJC 17 December 1983

High Counts

8 Grand Bay 26 April 2007 JW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Canada Warbler

Cardellina canadensis

Spring Casual

Six records in a relatively tight time span from late April to mid May.

Jackson Co 26 April 1980 JT (*Schardien and Jackson, 1980 MK 10-1*)

Ocean Springs 29 April 1996 CD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Jackson Co 1 May 1996 CD, DMc, et al. (*pers. comm. JSP*)

Ansley 1 May 2016 JL (*ebird*)

Ansley 9 May 1987 JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Gulfport 10 May 1937 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Shepard SP 22 May 2016 MW (*ebird*)

Fall Uncommon

Most records are singles from late August to mid September

Biloxi 14 August 1988 MB (*Hodges 1998 MK 18-2*)

Davis Bayou 23 August 1992 TS (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

East Ship I 10 October 1987 (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Heron Bay 11 October 2004 NB (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

[Chapman, F.M. 1907 **Warblers of North America** cites a record from Bay St Louis 15 October 1899 with no details.]

Winter

One record, Bellebeach 12-16 December 1979. LG, TG, et al. (*Jackson and Schardien, 1980 MK 10-1*)

High Count

4 Davis Bayou 5 September 2012 JW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Wilson's Warbler

Cardellina pusilla

General Status

Primarily a transient, rare in April and uncommon from mid September to mid October. There are several winter records.

Early/Late Dates Spring

ClowT 19 March to 4 April 2002 S.Wilkes (*Knight, 2003 MK 33-1*)

East Ship I 9 April 1991 R.Wauer (*Schiefer, 1992 MK 22-2*)

Waveland 12 May 1999 TG (*unpubl. rec.*)

Early Dates Fall

Waveland 2 September 1988 LS, JT (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Wavelag 3 September 1989 JT (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Winter

P.Christian 24 January 2009 JD (*pers. comm. JSP*)

DeSoto NF 29 January 2012 M. Boeh (*ebird*)

Hancock Co 2 February 1983 JS, JT, et al. (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)

Ocean Springs 13 February 2016 J Seymour (*ebird*)

CBC Data

MSSH 7 times

MSJC one time

High Count

6 Seaman Road 20 October 2000 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation-Specimen USNM

Painted Redstart

Myioborus pictus

Two records

WaveLag 5 October 1987 CC, JT, et al. (*Toups, et al. November, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Bellebeach 5 January to mid-March 2012 NM, m.ob. (*ebird*)

Documentation-Numerous photos of 2012 bird

[HOME](#)

NEW WORLD SPARROWS *Emberizidae*

Bachman's Sparrow

Peucaea aestivalis

General Status

Formerly a fairly widespread permanent resident, now gone from most of its range. Still easy to find in DeSoto NF, Red Creek WMA and at the MSCNWR, and there are a few pairs still present on private lands in northern Hancock Co.

BBS Data

Cyb: Never recorded

Ben: Occasional singles through 1990; non since

Nec: Up to 14/year through 1988, dropped to 2-3/year by 1992 then disappeared entirely except for a single bird in 2002.

Lat: recorded 18 to 25/year from 1988 through 1991; since then 1-4/year.

CBC Data

Though a difficult bird to find in winter even where common, one or two were logged on each CBC until they disappeared entirely from MSSH in 1989 and MSJC in 1994. For insight into winter behavior, see *Birding December 2003 35: 6 580-581*.

High Counts

10 Red Creek WMA 27 May 2011 JW (*ebird*)

10 Red Creek WMA 8 April 2015 H. Jordan (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

WINTERING *Ammodramus* **SPARROWS**

All are regular winter visitors. Random encounters are very infrequent but directed searches can be quite successful.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Ammodramus savannarum

Most frequent:

Early November to mid March. Can be found in the same places as its congeners but also occurs in sites that are drier than the others prefer.

Early/Late Dates

Kiln 12 October 1988 JPe, JT (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

PRM 4 May 1978 LG, JT (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

PRM 8 May 1979 P.Donaldson (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-1*)

CBC Data

MSSH 18 Times 1-3/year

MSJC 11 times 1-3/year

High Counts

6 MSCNWR 30 March 2012 V. Crutchfield (*ebird*)

15+ Ashe Nursery 28 January 2001 D.Cimprich (*Knight, 2002 MK 32-1*)

Documentation- Specimen MSU

Henslow's Sparrow

Ammodramus henslowii

Most frequent

Mid November to mid March. Preferred habitat is recently burned pine savannah from roughly the time herbaceous growth reappears (about a year) until the time woody growth begins to take over (three to five years).

Early/Late Dates

Logtown 10 October 2016 JL, et al. (*ebird*)

Crane NWR 21 October 2002 MW (*Knight 2003 MK 33-1*)

Crane NWR 23 October 2001 S.Woltman (*Knight 2002 MK 32-1*)

PRM 28 April 1979 LG, JT (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-1*)

Seaman Road 30 April 1992 CC, GM (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

(Toups and Jackson cite a record for the very late date of “May 22” but provide no further information)

High Counts

Highest counts are from banding operations by MW, et al. at the Crane NWR:

549 observed; 206 banded January-February 1998.

146 banded January-February 1999.

In other places, small groups of coordinating observers can often find five to eight birds in a suitable plot.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Comment

If you are serious about finding this species, *Chandler and Woodrey, 1995 MK 25-2* is required reading

LeConte’s Sparrow

Ammodramus leconteii

Most frequent:

Late October to late March. Prefers damp (vs standing water) locations with dense and/or thickly matted grass.

Early/Late Dates

Bellebeach 14 October 1978 MH, et al. (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

CataS 26 April 2014 NB (*ebird*)

CataS 27 April 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Lyman 3 May 1984 MB, JT, et al. (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

CBC Data

Norm 2-5/ count. Maximum 25 MSJC 2002

High Counts

21 MSCNWR 8 January-8 February 1999 MW, et al. (*Knight, 1999 MK 29-2*)

Documentation-Specimen USNM

Nelson’s Sparrow

Ammodramus nelsoni

Most frequent from early October to mid April. Migrants can be found in fresh water marsh and flooded meadows (particularly in fall, e.g. 6 CataS 30 October 2004 NB, SD, et al *ebird*) though over-wintering individuals are usually confined to salt marsh.

Early/Late Dates

West Ship I 15 September 1980 JJ (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

“coast” 8 May 1942 and May 8, 1943 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

“coast” 14 May 1987 CD, JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)
2 PRMCP 18 May 2006 JW (*ebird*)
4 Gr Bay 19 May 2006 JW (*ebird*)
Deer Island 23 May 2014 J. Wright (*ebird*)

CBC Data

MSJC: Usually nine or ten every year.

MSSH: Usually 6-8 on counts with boat coverage; 1-2 otherwise.

High Counts

30 Grand Bay 15-25 November 2003 MW (*ebird*)

31 Graveline Beach 16 October 2013 (*ACBS*)

57 Graveline Beach 14 October 2015 (*ACBS*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Comment

All “sharp-tailed” sparrow records have been assigned to *A. nelsoni* but see next.

Saltmarsh Sparrow *Ammodramus caudacutus*

One Record

1 (possibly 2) at Bayou Caddy marsh during MSSH 20 December 2011 JW and MW.

Documentation Needed

Comment

Included on the basis of acceptance by the BRC.

For good information on *nelsoni* vs *caudate* ID, see *Birding June 1996 287:3 197-208*.

Seaside Sparrow

Ammodramus maritimus

General Status

A permanent resident of the coastal marshes. Can be seen/heard from land in a few places (e.g. Ansley, Greenw I, Bellebeach) but is best searched for by boat.

Breeding

80 Grand Bay 8 June 2004 MW (*ebird*)

223 (presumably individuals, not pairs) boat survey of salt marshes of the three coastal counties May 1987 CD, JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

107 (approx. ¾ were fledglings) Graveline Beach 20 June 2012 (*ACBS*)

CBC Data

MSSH: Anywhere from one or two to ten to twenty, mostly depending on presence/absence boat party.

MSJC: Since the early '70's, usually two or three a year. Maximum 33 in 1995. However on 29 December 1962, a three person CBC by HH, et al (cited as “Pascagoula”-bounds not given) recorded 87, along with 26 Sharp-tailed Sparrows, presumably Nelson's. (*MOS Newsletter Vol 8 1963*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

***American Tree Sparrow**

Spizelloides arborea

Three records to date

Jackson Co 20 December 1980 TG, GM (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

Hancock Co 27 December 1980 TG, GM (Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1)
Jackson Co 19 December 1981 TG (Toups, 1981 Am Birds 35: 552-553).
Documentation-Needed.

Chipping Sparrow

Spizella passerina

General Status

A common to abundant winter visitor from early October to late April. Probably breeds here at least occasionally.

Early/Late Dates

Moss Point 10 August 2014 C. Kelley (*ebird*)

Wavelag 15 September 1987 MB CC, GM (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Gulfport 25 September 2000 NM (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Horn I 26 May 2004 S. Killeen (*ebird*)

Gulfport 28 May 2009 K. Baker (*ebird*)

Summer

Cited by *Burleigh, 1944*, as breeding very sparingly in areas of Loblolly Pine and there is one reported as breeding on the Ben BBS in 1974. Otherwise there have been numerous observations from suitable habitat in several different locales but no definite evidence of breeding.

Some examples:

Singing male, northwest of Logtown 10 June 1989 NB (*unpubl. rec.*)

Adult Spence's Woods 15 July 1989 JT (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Singing male DeSoto NF Stone Co. 8 May 1994 Guilfoyle (*Cimprich, 1996 MK 26-1*)

Winter

Very numerous in 2006-2007. At Henleyfield over 200 wintered in one yard. Over 100 still present at the end of March, 20-30 to mid April and a few lingered to early May NB (*unpubl. rec.*)

More typical

91 Bayou LaCroix, Hancock Co 19 December 2017 JP, et al (*ebird*)

150 Saucier 28 November 2016 JL(*ebird*)

CBC Data

MSJC: Numbers vary considerably from year to year; from less than 10 to 200-300.

MSSH: less fluctuation, usually 200-300.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Clay-colored Sparrow

Spizella pallida

General Status

A rare annual migrant from mid September to mid November and casually into January. The majority of records are from October. No evidence of over-wintering. Two spring records.

Spring Records

Hancock Co. 19 March 1982 JT (*pers comm. to JSP*)

Ansley 24 April 1987 CD, JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Pass Christian 10 September 2017 LM (*ebird*)
Lakeshore 17 September 1989 TS (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)
Broadwater Golf Course 3 January 2016 photo HC (*ebird*)
Logtown 23 January 1992 JT, et al. (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)
Kiln 31 January 1989 JT (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Numbers

4 Broadwater Golf Course 18 October 2015 OG (*ebird*)
5+ Ansley 23 October 1982 LG, TG (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

Documentation-specimen USNM.

Field Sparrow

Spizella pusilla

General Status

A fairly common winter visitor from late October to early March.

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 23 September 1999 (*Survey Team*)
Jackson Co 18 October 1991 (*pers. comm. to JSP*)
Logtown 14 April 1982 JT (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)
“coast” 23 April 1940 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

CBC Data

MSSH: Usually records 10 to 50

MSJC: Varies, ranges from one or two to 20; occasionally as many as 60.

High Counts

20 OFBMB 5 January 2012 JW (*ebird*)
27 Mars WMA 21 January 2012 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Lark Sparrow

Chondestes grammacus

General Status

A rare but regular fall transient from mid August to mid December, peaking mid September to mid October. Usually singles, but small flocks of 2 to 4 are not unusual.

Early/Late Dates Spring

2 Biloxi 31 March 2016 G. Chapin (*ebird*)
Long Beach 3 April 2016 DR (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Ocean Springs 1 August 2010 photograph JR (*per. comm.*)
Biloxi 13 August 2016 HC (*ebird*)
Gulfport 18 August 1942 (*Burleigh, 1944*)
Deer Island I 3 November 1942 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Occasional in winter, early spring: examples

MSSH 17 December 1984
MSSH 18 December 2012
Biloxi 14-17 January 2016 JL, et al. (*ebird*)
BelleBeach 13 January 2012 B. Morris (*ebird*)

Bellebeach 14 February 1983 MB, JT (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)
Bellebeach 5 March 1983 JT (*Imof, 1983 Am Birds 37: 878-882*)

High Counts

7 Ansley 21 August 1989 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen USNM

Lark Bunting

Calamospiza melanocorys

Three records

A noted wanderer, further occurrences seem reasonable.

Bellebeach 13 October 1979 TG (*Gates, et al., 1980 MK 10-1*)

Gulfport 29 August 1980 photographed MH, JT (*Toups and Hodges, 1981 MK 11-1*)

Hancock Co 21 December 1987 CD, JT (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Documentation-photograph MBRC Archives

Fox Sparrow

Passerella iliaca

General Status

A rare and erratic winter visitor normally encountered only during a short period from mid November to mid February.

Early/Late Dates

BCNWR 20 November 2015 NB (*ebird*)

E Ship I 24 November 1976 WW (*Jackson and Weber, 1976 MK 6-2*)

Seaman Road 1 December 2011 (*Survey Team*)

Gulfport 25 February 1940 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

ORWMA 28 February 2012 NB (*ebird*)

Ocean Springs 29 February 1977 WW (*Hamilton, 1977 Am Birds 31:339-343*)

CBC Data

Recorded on about a third of all CBC's; typically one to six/count.

High Counts

16 Davis Bayou 29 January 1977 WW (*Jackson and Weber, 1977 MK 7-1*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Dark-eyed [Slate-colored]

Junco hyemalis

General Status

A regular winter visitor from early November to late March; numbers fluctuate markedly from year to year

Early/Late Dates

Ansley 15 October 2000 NB (*ebird*)

Ansley 19 October 2001 Heron Bay-NB (*ebird*)

Gulfport 13 April 1977 JT (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-2*)

East Ship I 14 April 1988 FM (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Stone Co 21 April 2007 P. Cotto (*ebird*)

Gulfport 16 May 2007 NM (*unpubl. rec.*)

CBC Data

Numbers on CBC's vary from only two or three in some years to 20 to 40 in others.

High Counts

87 Flint Creek 17 January 2015 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Comment

There is one report (without details) of an "Oregon" type.

Davis Bayou 11 December 1980 MH, JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

It is possible that this form may again be regarded as a distinct species.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

White-crowned Sparrow

Zonotrichia leucophrys

General Status

A regular fall migrant in small numbers. Erratic in winter and quite rare in spring.

Early/Late Dates

Escatawpa 8 October 1980 MH, JT, et al. (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

PRM 8 October 1989 K. Cowley, et al. (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

Ansley 3 May 2007 three birds, two singing males-NB (*ebird*)

Biloxi 31 May 1992 MP (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

CBC Data

Recorded only six times on MSSH and nine times on MSJC, usually one or two/count.

Maximum was 17 on MSSH in 2006.

High Counts

9 Seaman Road 7 November 2002 (*Survey Team*)

10 USDA Sta., Pearl River Co 18 January 2014 L. Basden (*ebird*)

22 Mars WMA 31 October 2012 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen USNM

Harris's Sparrow

Zonotrichia querula

Four records to date-strays eastward with some frequency; further sightings are possible.

Gulfport 17 February 1942 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

MSJC 16 December 1978

PRM 7 November 1981 JT (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)

PRAC 16-19 January 2016 photo G. Chapin (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen (Burleigh, 1944 at Univ of Mich)

White-throated Sparrow

Zonotrichia albicollis

General Status

Normally a regular winter visitor from mid November to late April but occasionally remarkably scarce.

Early/Late Dates

Henleyfield 5-8 October 2006 NB (*unpubl. rec.*)

Jackson Co 10 October 1993. CD, LJ (*pers. comm. CD to JSP*)

Gulfport 2 May 1942 (*Burleigh, 1944*)
"Coast" 11 May 1940 (*Burleigh, 1944*)
CataS May 17 2007 NB (*ebird*)
Vancleave 2-3 June 2014 D. Richards photo (*BofB*)

CBC Data

Both CBC's normally record in the low hundreds, maximum-812-MSSH-1976.
In the winter 2005-2006, the two counts combined recorded only 62 as compared to 185 the year before and 520 the year after. Probably the effect of *Katrina* on weed seed crops.

High Counts

36 PRWMA 17 February 2009 ZN (*ebird*)
46 Poplarville 7 February 2016 JL (*ebird*)
211 Ansley 11 April 2013 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Vesper Sparrow

Pooecetes gramineus

General Status

A sparse winter visitor from early November to early March.

Early/Late Dates

Wavelag 12 October 2004 NB (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)
Horn I. 14-15 October 2011 M. Sieges (*ebird*)
Seaman Road 20 March 2014 OG (*ebird*)
CataS March 21 2004 NB (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)
Seaman Road 26 October 1995 (*Survey Team*)
Saucier 27 October 1938 (*Burleigh, 1944*)
Gulfport March 31 1938 (*Burleigh, 1944*)
Seaman Road 10 April 2002 (*Survey Team*)

BBS Data

All 6/6. Cyb 11-20; Ben 9-15; Nic 20-37; Lat 8-22

CBC Data

Recorded on about eighty percent of CBC's. Numbers vary considerably from one or two in some years to 20 to 30 in others.

High Counts

35 MSCNWR 3 March 2012 D. Gochfeld, et al. (*ebird*)
36 Ward Bayou WMA 20 February 2011 JW, et al (*ebird*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Savannah Sparrow

Passerculus sandwichensis

General Status

An abundant winter visitor from early October to mid April.

Early/Late Dates

PRM 13 September 1980 JT, et al. (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)
PRWMA 29 September 2009 JW (*ebird*)
PRM May 14 1981 MH, JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)
Seaman Road 15 May 1998 (*Survey Team*)

CataS 17 May 2007 NB (*ebird*)
Seaman Road 19 May 2016 (*Survey Team*)

CBC Data

MSSH: Average counts, 200 to 300
MSJC: Average counts, 100 to 200

High Counts

265 Seaman Road 19 March 2009 (*Survey Team*)
278 Seaman Road 28 March 2013 (*Survey Team*)
310 Seaman Road 18 December 2004 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen MMNS

Song Sparrow

Melospiza melodia

General Status

A fairly common winter visitor from early November to Mid March.

Early/Late Dates

Jackson Co 9 October 1989 CC, CD, et al (*pers comm. to JSP*)
Seaman Road 11 October 2012 (*Survey Team*)
ClowerT 14 October 2002 BD (*pers. comm. to JSP*)
Greenw I 21 April 1992 JT, et al (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

CBC Data

Both CBC's normally record 60 to 80. Maximum was 200 on MSSH in 1993.

High Counts

45 Mars WMA 11 January 2013 NB (*ebird*)
59 Seaman Road 15 December 2002 (*Survey Team*)
60 Seaman Road 1 February 1999 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation-Specimen -LSUMZ

Lincoln's Sparrow

Melospiza lincolnii

General Status

An uncommon migrant and rare winter visitor from mid October to mid April.

Early/Late Dates

Grand Bay 1 October 2008 JW (*ebird*)
GBN/N 1 October 2008 JW (*ebird*)
Seaman Road 7 October 2010 (*Survey Team*)
Mars WMA 17 October 2014 NB (*ebird*)
East Ship I 9 October 1987 A. Kuenzi (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)
Kiln 17 April 1989 P Du, JT, et al. (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)
Camp Wilkes 19 April 2013 P. Carter
Deer Island 7 May 1941 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

CBC Data

Recorded on about a third of all counts; typically one to three/count.

High Counts

5 Seaman Road 10 December 2009 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation- Specimen-LSUMZ

Swamp Sparrow

Melospiza georgiana

General Status

An abundant winter visitor from mid October to early May.

Early/Late Dates

Seaman Road 10 September 1995 L.Jacobson (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 19 September 2003 (*Survey Team*)

Jackson Co 25 September 1987 MP, JT (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Bay ST L 6 May 1987 CD, JT (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

CataS 17 May 2007 NB (*ebird*)

CBC Data

MSSH Typical counts, 300-500. Maximum 965 in 1993.

MSJC Typical counts, 60-200.

High Counts

324 Seaman Road 18 December 2004 (*Survey Team*)

Green-tailed Towhee

Pipilo chlorurus

Three records. This species strays eastward fairly often and may show up here again.

Bellebeach 19 December 1976 J.Izral (*Jackson and Weber, 1977 MK 7-1*)

Pearlington 20 October 1983 JT et al (*Toups, 1984 MK 14-1*)

Harrison Co 28 November 1987 to February 1988 EJ, m.ob. (*Muth, 1988 Am Birds 42: 274-279*)

Documentation-Photograph MBRC Archives

Eastern Towhee

Pipilo erythrophthalmus

General Status

An abundant permanent resident throughout.

BBS Data

All 6/6. Cyb 11-20; Ben 9-15; Nic 20-37; Lat 8-22.

CBC Data

Both CBCs normally record 20 to 50 /year: maximum, 136-MSSH-1984.

High Counts

55 Dantzler Nature Preserve 16 March 2013 MW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Yellow-breasted Chat

Icteria virens

General Status

An abundant summer resident from early April to early October.

Early/Late Dates

Jackson Co 20 March 1994 CD, LE (*unpubl. rec.*)

Logtown 31 March 2000 JT (*unpubl. rec.*)

Deer Island 29 October 1938 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Seaman Road 16 November 2017 (*Sewage Team*)

BBS Data

BBS6Y: All 6/6. Cyb 13-23; Ben 7-21; Nic 13-27; Lat 9-23.

Winter-four records

MSSH 19 December 2006

ORWMA 10 February 2007 NB (*ebird*)

Ward Bayou 16 February 2009 JW (*ebird*)

Harrison Co 24 February 1971 (*J. Miller, 1971 MOS Newsletter 16-4*)

PRWMA 25 February 2009 ZN (*ebird*)

High Counts

15 Hancock 27 April 2016 NB, JP (*ebird*)

15 Red Creek WMA 29 April 2017 GM, et al (*ebird*)

25 Red Creek WMA 19 April 2012 JW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

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GROSBEAKS & ALLIES *Cardinalidae*

Summer Tanager

Piranga rubra

General Status

A summer resident and migrant from early April to late October. Nests regularly at Ansley but otherwise mostly well inland. Common migrant throughout, peaks in mid April and late September. In most years lingering individuals are found well into early winter.

Early/Late Dates

Bay St L 15 March 1984 MB, LS, JT (*Hodges, 1984 MK 14-2*)

Gulfport 20 March 1977 JT (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-2*)

Gulfport 25 October 1935 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Biloxi 10 November 1990 GM (*Schiefer, 1991 MK 21-1*)

Gulfport 30 November 1985 JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 7-11; Ben 6/6 2-6; Nic 6/6 3-12; Lat 5/6 0-2

Winter

About twenty records from late November to late February-often at feeders.

High Counts

70+ Henleyfield 2 October 2006 passing rapidly through the treetops at dawn Appeared to be skirting a local shower NB (*ebird*).

Ca.100 Ansley 26 April 2000. Sudden late afternoon build up NB (*ebird*).

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Scarlet Tanager

Piranga olivacea

General Status

A common transient from mid April to mid May and mid September to late October.

Early/Late Dates Spring

ClowerT 13 March 2014 AM (*ebird*)

Pascagoula 26 March 2015 BJ (*ebird*)
Hancock Co 1 April 1987 CD, JT (*pers. comm. to JSP*)
Deer Island 3 April 1944 (*Burleigh, 1944*)
East Ship I 11 May 1977 WW (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-2*)
5 Ansley 11 May 2012 NB (*ebird*)
Gulfport 15 May 1942 (*Burleigh, 1944*)
Ansley 15 May 2017 OG (*ebird*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

2 Saucier 23 August 2009 OG (*ebird*)
ORWMA 30 August 2015 NB (*ebird*)
Gulfport 8 September 1994 CC, CD, GM, et al. (*pers. comm. to JSP*)
Hancock Co 2 November 1985 LG, TG (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)
Saucier 13 November 1935 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

High Counts

Counts of 20 to 40 in the cheniers during fall-outs in spring are not unusual. Fall totals are usually less.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Western Tanager

Piranga ludoviciana

General Status

Accidental in spring rare in fall.

Spring three records

Horn Island 12 April 1969 (*Toups and Jackson, 1987*)
Biloxi 14 April 1988 MB (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)
Bellebeach 8 May 1982 JT, et al. (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*).

Fall About sixteen records

Most are from October through mid December
Earliest Bellebeach 22 August 1981 JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-2*)
Photo PRAC 2 November 2016 P Blank, BJ (*ebird*)
Latest Ocean Springs 27 February 2004 A. Duckett, et al (*Knight, 2005 MK35-1*)
It would seem likely that the latter was overwintering.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis

General Status

A common permanent resident throughout from urban yards to small clearings in extensive woodland. Loose flocks of adults and young may congregate in late summer around active feeding stations e.g. 20 to 25 at Henleyfield, 2006, 2007 NB (*unpubl rec.*)

BBS Data

All 6/6. Cyb 28-41; Ben 54-75; Nic 57-114; Lat 29-56.

CBC Data

MSSH: typical counts 80 to 200; Maximum, 360 in 2002
MSJC: typical counts 50 to 150; Maximum, 248 in 2002

High Counts

75 Flint Creek 11 January 2011 NB (*ebird*)
81 PRWMA (George Co.) 14 April 2011 M.MacIntosh (*ebird*)
89 PRWMA 13 April 2011 M.MacIntosh (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Pheucticus ludovicianus

General Status

A common transient mid April to early May and mid September to mid October. Can be numerous during fall-outs. One summer and several winter records.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Gulfport 22 March 1981 JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

BuccSP 7 April 1982 JT (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

“coast” 13 May 1941 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Biloxi 18 May 2000 GM (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

Pass Christian 3 July 2017 M.Ryan Adult male (*pers.comm.*)

Seaman Road 21 August 1997 TG, et al. (*Survey Team*)

BuccSP 1 September 1976 JT, et al. (*Jackson and Weber, 1976 MK 6-2*)

Gulfport 9 November 2000 AH (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Bay St L 17 November 1985 LS (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Summer

Adult male Cristensen feeder Diamondhead 9-13 July 1989 (*Schiefer, 1990, MK 20-1*)

Winter

Two records prior to the mid-‘90’s:

MSJC, 1982

Ocean Springs 10 January 1978 Adult male AD (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Virtually annually since, probably due to keener coverage and reporting.

High Counts

22 Ansley 28 April 2015 NB (*ebird*)

60+ Biloxi 27 April 1982 JT (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Black-headed Grosbeak

Pheucticus melanocephalus

First records (*MOS Newsletter Vol 8 1963*)

Feeder of AT Picayune 9-19 January 1962. Collected by SC.

Bellebeach 20 January 1963 collected HH

Since then there have been seven reports. October sightings were with transient Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, the others were at feeders.

Gulfport adult male 24 January (year?) (*fide, JT*)

Ocean Springs 15 January 1984 photographed P. McCarthy (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK-14-2*)

Ansley 2 October 1985 DaK, JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Ansley 17 October 1990 GM (*Schiefer, 1991 MK 21-1*)

Gulfport 23 November 2002-? March 2003 M. McCrary photo (*ebird*)

Logtown 15 October 2004 SM, MP (*pers. comm. to NB*)

Picayune 1 March 2016 R. Plitt photo (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Comment

There is also a report of a female Biloxi 27 April 1988 G and J Paston (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2, fide JT*) Presumably this was supported with adequate detail.

Can be very much like Rose-breasted in some plumages. The standard field guides state the case fairly well but don't really provide enough detail. See *Birding April 1991 23:4 219-225* for more info.

Blue Grosbeak

Passerina caerulea

General Status

A common resident from mid April to mid October. Often abundant in migration particularly in fall from early September to early October.

Early/Late Dates

Harrison Co 3 March 1986 JS, et al (*Jackson, 1986 MK 16-1*)

Hancock Co 31 March 1981 GM, JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

Pascagoula 11 November 2015 BJ (*ebird*)

Hancock Co 14 November 1982 JB, JT (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

MSSH 17 December 1984

BBS Data

Cyb6/6 9-15; Ben 6/6 1-5; Nic 5/6 0-9; Lat 6/6 1-5

High Counts

50 Kiln 7 September 1988 JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

90-100 CataN 12 October 2004 JB, NB (*ebird.*)

Documentation- Specimen-MMNS

Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena*

One Record

Long Beach 2-4 April 2014 R.M. Engle Adult male photograph (*BoB*)

Comment

JSP listed a sight record from Gulfport August 1980. At the time it would have constituted a first state record. However it is not listed in any of the three standard works published since that date, i.e., *BBMC, BMC, BOM*. Therefore it has been deleted pending better information.

Documentation Photo MBRC files

Indigo Bunting

Passerina cyanea

General Status

Like the Prairie Warbler, has undoubtedly benefited from clear cutting and is now a common resident in early succession growth from early April to late October, particularly northward. Abundant as a migrant, particularly during its protracted fall migration from early August until well into October.

Early/Late Dates

Pass Christian 3 March 2001 DB (*pers. comm. to JSP*)
Pascagoula 4 March 2015 BJ (*ebird*)
Bay St L 15 March 1984 MB, JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK-14-2*)
Henleyfield 15 March 2012 NB (*ebird*)
Gulfport 16 March 1941 (*Burleigh, 1944*)
Lakeshore 18 November 1985 MH, JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)
ClowerT 19 November 2000 JT (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

BBS Data

All 6/6. Cyb 10-18; Ben 6-11; Nic 6-19; Lat 2-14.

CBC Data

CBCs-four records
Gulfport 24 January 1986 JT (*Jackson, 1986 MK 16-1*)
La Rue 31 January 1996 CD, LJ (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

High Counts

During fall-outs in springs flocks of 50 to 100 may swarm suburban feeders. In fall they are more likely to be in weedy fields and along roadsides where less conspicuous but even more numerous. Fall counts in the low hundreds are commonplace, e.g.:

156 Kiln 5 October 2015 P. Thut (*ebird*)
200 Mars WMA 13 October 2012 NB (*ebird*)
300 CataN 4 October 2015 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Painted Bunting

Passerina ciris

General Status

A localized summer resident from mid April to early October. Away from breeding locales, most often recorded during the height of migration in late April and September when a few can usually be found among the swarms of Indigo Buntings.

Early/Late Dates

Bellebeach March 31 1962 HH (*Haberyan, 1962 MOS Newsletter 7(3)*)
Jackson Co 2 April 2001 photo T. Reitan (*pers. comm. to JSP*)
Ansley 4 April 2004 M. Gimpel (*ebird*)
Biloxi 6 April 1982 M. Gill (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)
Heron Bay 15 November 1989 NB (*ebird*)
ClowerT 19 November 2000 JT (*pers. comm. to JSP*)
Port Bienville 20 December 2016 HC, JL, et al (*ebird*)

Breeding

Nests regularly in southern portion of the Region e.g., Ansley CataN, CataS, and Greenwood Island. Not normally found on the BBS routes.

BBS Data

Cyb, Ben, Nic singles 2-3 times each through late 1990's
Nic one, 2010
Lat Never recorded.

Winter

Prior to 2009

Only two records: Harrison Co 16 December 1991W Hubler fem/imm (*Schiefer 1992, MK 22-2*) and MSJC 18 December 2004

2010 to 2012 Five records

2013-2015

1-3 each year, including over-wintering males at Gulfport, Biloxi and Pascagoula. **High Counts**

11 GR N/N 26 April 2005 A. Crary (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Dickcissel

Spiza americana

General Status

Normally a rare migrant and erratic winter visitor from late August to early May. Occasionally appears in large numbers in spring. May possibly have bred at least once.

Early/Late Dates

Henleyfield 4 August 2006 NB (*ebird*)

Greenw I 1 September 1987 JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Greenw I 15 May 1987 GM, MP (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Breeding (?)

Pair Greenw I 11 to 25 June 1988 CC, CD- no nest or young found (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Singing male Seaman Road June to mid-July 1997, 1999 and 2003 (*Survey Team*).

Singing male Triple Barrel 7 June 2017 (*ACBS*)

Winter

MSJC 18 December 1976

MSSH 29 December 1988

Gulfport February (?) through 6 April 2010 NM (*pers. comm.*)

High Counts

300+ CataS 28 April 2005 NB (*ebird*)

17 CataS 6 September 2006 NB (*ebird*)

8-10 CataS 30 October 2004 Jackson Ridge JB, NB, et al. (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

One to three is more usual in fall.

Documentation-Specimen USNM

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BLACKBIRDS & ALLIES *Icteridae*

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus

General Status

An irregular visitor found mostly in the immediate vicinity of the coast but recorded as far inland as Kiln and Seaman Road. Has been recorded in every month except June, but most occurrences are mid September to late October and secondarily mid April to mid May.

Numbers

Was annual at feeders in the Heron Bay community spring and fall for about five years preceding *Katrina*. Up to three or four were sometimes present in fall. In 2004, a singing

male lingered until mid May. 2005. Some evidence of return to these levels has been noted in the past two years with reestablishment of regularly maintained feeding stations.

Documentation- Photograph MSU

Bobolink

Dolichonyx orizivorus

General Status

A common spring migrant from mid April to mid May. It is only casual in fall from mid September to mid October though recent observations suggest it may be a bit more frequent than previously thought.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Seaman Road 13 April 2000 (*Survey Team*)

West Ship I 4 April 2013 OG (*ebird*)

Green I 15 April 1991 P. Dunne (*Schiefer, 1992 MK -22-2*)

60 mostly females CataS 17 May 2007 NB (*unpubl. rec.*)

GB N/N 18 May 2011 JW (*ebird*)

Horn I 21 May 2014 D. Hollie (*ebird*)

Horn I 26 May 1976 WW (*Jackson, 1976 MK 6-1*)

Fall -about fifteen records

2-5/sighting CataS most years since 2004

Four most unusual

15 Kiln 26 September 1989 MH, et al (*Schiefer, 1990 MK 20-1*)

2 Singing River I 14 October 2017 JH, et al (*ebird*)

3 Deer I 14 October 2017 JL (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 15 October 1993 (*Survey Team*)

MSCNWR 26 October 2015 J. Ledbetter (*ebird*)

Pascagoula 11 December 1982 JT, et al. (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

(There is a CBC record for Louisiana in 2003. There are no Alabama records after mid-October)

High Counts

160 Gr Bay 6 May 2006 JW (*ebird*)

485 Seaman Road 30 April 2015 (*Survey Team*)

1000+ CataS 3 May 2004 NB (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Western Meadowlark

Sturnella neglecta

Two collected by Burleigh in the 1930's (*Burleigh, 1944*). No reports since.

Deer Island 13 October 1936

Saucier 20 November 1937

Comment

It might be noted that although one meadowlark singing the song of the other does occur, it is rare, and the "swapping" of species-specific call notes much rarer still. See accounts of voice of both species in *BNA*.

Documentation-Specimen USNM

Eastern Meadowlark

Sturnella magna

General Status

Technically a permanent resident but through most of the southern tier it is disappearing rapidly as a breeder and to a lesser extent as a winter visitor. Still a reasonably common summer resident northward with some influx in winter.

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 6-14; Ben 6/6 2-5; Nic 6/6 22-40; Lat 2/6 0-12

CBC Data

MSSH: historically 100 to 200; slightly lower in recent years.

MSJC: Normal range 70 to 200.

High Counts

150 Seaman Road 5-27 February 1998 (*Survey Team*)

200 Seaman Road 14 February 2002 (*Survey Team*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Orchard Oriole

Icterus spurius

General Status

A common summer resident from early March to late August. Often abundant in migration mid April to mid May and in August.

Early/Late Dates

Hancock Co 15 March 1977 JT (*Weber and Jackson, 1977 MK 7-2*)

“coast” 21 March 1941 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Seaman Road 29 September 2016 (*Survey Team*)

PortBien 11 November 1985 photos MH, JT (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

BBS Data

All 6/6. Cyb 14-24; Ben 3-11; Nic 4-18; Lat 3-9.

Winter

Biloxi 21 January through 29 February 1992 SM, m.ob. (*Schiefer, 1993 MK 23-2*)

Biloxi 11-15 February 2009 GM, banded JBe.

High Counts

150 in about two hours Heron Bay 17 April 1989 NB (*ebird*)

75 CataS 27 August 2005 NB (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Hooded Oriole

Icterus cucullatus

One Record.

female Pass Christian 6-25 February 2010 M. Ryan, P. Ryan, photo SM, banded JBe.

Documentation-Photos and Banding data MBRC Archives

Bullock's Oriole

Icterus bullockii

Nine records to date.

Seems rather few, perhaps because this species was lumped with the Baltimore Oriole for many years.

Gulfport 17 September 1976 (*Toups and Jackson. 1987*)

Escatawpa 25 October 1981 LG, TG, JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-2*)

Ocean Springs (?) September 1986 (*Toups and Jackson. 1987*)

Ad. male Ocean Springs 15 February 1988 M. Bryant, fide CC (*Hodges, 1988 MK 18-2*)

Ad. male Poplarville Pearl River Co 25 January 2003 photo J Reynolds (*Knight, 2011 MK41-1*).

A female Ward residence Ocean Springs late December 2011 to mid-January 2012 (photos-M Ward).

An adult male same location in Ocean Springs 17 January-early 2 April 2014 and (perhaps the same individual?) again 18-29 January 2015 M.Ward, M Lasalle et al photos.

Adult male Pascagoula 27-30 October 2017 BJ, et al photos (*ebird*)

Documentation-Photograph MBRC Archives

Comment

Valuable information on separating the more difficult plumages of this species and the next can be found in two different issues of *Birding: Lee and Birch, August, 1998* and *February, 2001; Jaramillo, February, 2001*. Read all, there is some degree of controversy.

[Alta Mira Oriole *Icterus gularis*]

An individual was observed and photographed on Horn Island 14-16 January 2012

B.Dellinger M Harrison, K. Moody, The ID was well documented. However, the marked lack of vagrancy noted for this species plus the fact that it is a popular cage bird in Central America and was found a few miles from a major banana port (Gulfport) led to a BRC decision escaped/ship-assisted.

Baltimore Oriole

Icterus galbula

General Status

A somewhat irregular transient in April and September. There are scattered winter records.

Early/Late Dates Spring

Gulfport 2 March 1978 F. McHugh (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Gulfport 27 March 1979 JT (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-1*)

Deer Island 1 April 1941 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Ocean Springs 1 April 2006 JW (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 17 May 1997 (*Survey Team*)

Ocean Springs 24 May 2008 K. Kuehn (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 3 June 2004 (*Survey Team*)

2 Seaman Road 2 June 2005 (*Survey Team*)

Early/Late Dates Fall

5 August 1993 Seaman Road (*Survey Team*)

21 August 2010 Gautier W. McLaughlin (*ebird*)

24 August 1942 Deer Island (*Burleigh, 1944*)

7 October 1941 Deer Island (*Burleigh, 1944*)
12 October Jackson Co M. Kemp (*ebird*)
18 October 2013 Ansley NB (*ebird*)

Winter

About fifteen December reports, and seven late winter.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Red-winged Blackbird

Agelaius phoeniceus

General Status

A common summer and abundant winter resident of coastal marshlands and adjacent areas. Further inland it is quite localized as a summer resident and often absent in winter.

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 33-43; Ben 4/6 3-4; Nic 6/6 3-22; Lat 4/6 2-5

CBC Data

Both CBC's normally tally 1000 to 3000.

Maxima: MSSH 7580 in 1990

MSJC a remarkable 21813 in 1997.

High Counts

1200 CataN 20 December 2015 NB BJ (*ebird*)

2000 GB N/N 3 February 2009 JW (*ebird*)

3000 GB N/N 18 December 2009 JW (*ebird*)

4400 GB N/N 6 December 2007 JW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Shiny Cowbird

Molothrus bonariensis

General Status

Seven occurrences to date, all at feeders. First appeared in North America in the 1980's but does not seem to be expanding particularly beyond its foothold in Florida.

Waveland 12 June 1991 male photographed LS, JT, et al. (*Schiefer, 1992 MK -22-2*)

Heron Bay 10 April 1999 singing male NB (*ebird*)

2 Gulfport 10 November 2004 JT (*Knight, 2005 MK 35-1*)

Heron Bay 31 December 2011-1 January 2012 JW, et al. (*ebird*)

Heron Bay 23-29 May 2012 NM, NB et al. photos (*ebird*)

Heron Bay 6-22 June 2012 m.ob (*ebird*)

Heron Bay 31 March 2014 NB (*ebird*)

2 Singing River I. 1 May 2016 photo (*ACBS*)

Heron Bay 13 May-10 June 2017 numerous observers Photos (*ebird*)

Documentation-Photograph MBRC Archives

Comment

I.D. information in the standard guides tends to be perfunctory. Supplement it with *Birding, December 2000, 32: 6 514-526*

Bronzed Cowbird

Molothrus aeneus

The first state record

2 PRM 1 January 1979 MH, JT (*Hodges and Touns, 1979 MK 9-1*)

Photographed at that locale in varying numbers over the next several months. No further sightings until the late 1980's in southern Hancock Co.

It is now regular in small numbers. There are records for every month but it is most frequent, or at least most conspicuous, from late March to early June.

Breeding Ansley-Heron Bay

1-3 fledglings 18-24 July 1999 JSP (*Knight, 2011 MK41-1*)

Female at Orchard Oriole nest, 2002. Nest subsequently deserted NB (*unpubl rec.*)

juv. being fed by female Orchard Oriole 2004, 2005. Bay NB (*unpubl rec.*)

Comment

There is some evidence that in areas of sympatry with Brown-headed, the Bronze Cowbird becomes more specialized in host selection, frequently selecting orioles.

See *Wilson Bulletin*, 2005 117(2)

Documentation-Photograph MBRC Archives

Brown-headed Cowbird

Molothrus ater

General Status

A common permanent resident throughout. One of the very few species to reappear in the Ansley area in undiminished numbers after *Katrina*.

BBS Data

BBS6Y: Cyb 6/6 8-11; Ben 6/6 4-6; Nic 2/6 2-4; Lat 5/6 2-9.

CBC Data

Varies considerably, 50 to 60 to several hundred. No apparent trends

High Counts

500-600 Hancock waterfront 15 and 17 July 2007 two miles of beaches. Mostly immatures feeding on seeding beach grass.

800 Singing River I 26 February 2011 (*ACBS*)

802 Seaman Road 14 November 2001 (*Survey Team*)

(A count of 2000 from Broadwater Marina 12 November 2011, though not incompatible with counts from elsewhere in the state, seems unduly high for the coast.)

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Rusty Blackbird

Euphagus carolinus

General Status

A winter visitor from late November to early February. Historically, numbers have always fluctuated from year to year but there is little doubt that currently it is in serious long term decline.

Early/Late Dates

Bellebeach 21 October 1978 LG, JT (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Hancock Co 27 October 1983 MB, JT (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)

Hancock Co 15 March 1984 MB, JT (*Hodges and Jackson, 1984 MK 14-2*)

70 PRWMA 18 March 2009 ZN (*ebird*)

Gulfport 8 April 1941 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Davis Bayou 8 April 1979 JT, et al. (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-1*)

CBC Data

MSSH: Seen on 2/3 of the all counts to date, usually 10 to 30; maximum was 150 in 1983.

MSJC: Seen on most earlier counts. Numbers varied considerably, from 1-2 to 250. Unrecorded since 1998.

High Counts

In the winter of 2005-2006, after many years of scarcity, it was suddenly quite numerous through southern Hancock Co. from mid November to early March. E.g., 150-250 birds through the period at CataS JB, NB, m. ob. (*unpubl. recs.*) In light of recent research this was more likely due to a temporary shift in winter foraging patterns than to any real increase.

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Comment

For a quick but rather superficial summary of current status, try the *Great Backyard Bird Count* site. To get to the meat of things, see *Friends of National Zoo-Migratory Bird Center; Alaskabird.org*; The Cornell Lab. Of Ornith. *BIRDSCOPE spring 2006 vol 20 no. 2*

Brewer's Blackbird

Euphagus cyanocephalus

General Status

Formerly a fairly common through somewhat erratic winter visitor from late November to late February throughout. Now quite scarce in the southern tier as suitable pasturelands and fields disappear.

Early/Late Dates

Hancock Co 6 November 1985 MH, GM, JT, et al. (*Hodges, 1985 MK 15-2*)

Saucier 9 November 1939 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

Hancock Co 31 March 1981 GM, JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

6 Hancock Co 1 April 1979 LG, JT (*Jackson and Schardien, 1979 MK 9-1*)

Gulfport 5 April 1938 (*Burleigh, 1944*)

CBC Data

MSSH: 1976-2001 recorded 24 of 25 years; normal range, 50-200

2002-2015 recorded 2 of 14 years; normal range, 3-25

MSJC: 1974- 2001 recorded 15 of 27 years; normal range, 30 to 150.

2002-2015 recorded 4 of 14 years; normal range, 3 to 10

High Counts

50-250 Pearl River Co Late November-early February, winters of 2005-2006 and 2006-2007. Flocks of to 250, once, 800-1000, various times and places. Never seemed to remain in one locale for more than several days.

Much the same occurred mid-February 2014 in pasture lands of Hancock and Pearl River Counties NB (*ebird*)

More typical are counts of 10-30

Documentation-Specimen LSUMZ

Common Grackle

Quiscalus quiscula

General Status

Overall an abundant permanent resident though historically rather scarce as a breeding species in some places on the immediate coast (e.g. Ansley). Immediately following *Katrina*, it seemed to be more frequent in such places in summer, perhaps due to the virtual disappearance of the next species.

BBS Data

Cyb 6/6 26-46; Ben 6/6 1-5; Nic 4/6 1-7; Lat 4/6 2-7

CBC Data

MSSH : Usually 100 to 300. Maximum, 5693 in 1990.

MSJC: Varies greatly. 50 to 60 in most years, as many as 3000 in a few, but only 1 in 2005 and 17 in 2006.

High Counts

500 Hancock Co 16 October 2013 SE, GO (*ebird*)

1000 Gautier 24 September 1977 WW (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Boat-tailed Grackle

Quiscalus major

General Status

Prior to Hurricane *Katrina*, the Boat-tail was a common resident of coastal marshes and seemed to be steadily expanding inland.

Eastward, populations seem not have been greatly effected but it virtually disappeared as a summer resident in southern Hancock Co. There has been some recovery since then.

Regularly winters in numbers in shopping malls

CBC Data

MSSH: Normal range, 50 to 100. Maximum, 347 in 1988.

MSJC: Varies from 100 to 200 to occasionally several hundred.

High Counts

475 Seaman Road 28 January 2016 (*ebird*)

500 PRM 25-27 February 1979 WW (*ebird*)

512 Seaman Road 14 November 2001 (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

***Great-tailed Grackle**

Quiscalus mexicanus

Two accepted records to date:

2 along I-10 near the Pascagoula River 20 November 1996 P.Worthington (*Schiefer, 1998 MK 28-2*). Was published as the first state record.

However there is a previous unpublished sighting Seaman Road 20 March 1994 CD, LE

The text of BCM mentions a third record but it is not reflected, in the bar graph

Comment

In dealing with this species vs Boat-tailed, be sure to read all the fine print Re: iris color of the MS population.

In January, 2011, three different observers (NB, CD, JW) observed one or more birds thought to be this species among the flocks of BTGR scavenging at the Singing River Mall. It seems likely that carefully sorting through these winter flocks will eventually be successful. Photos would be much desired. But keep in mind that a stray from the pale-eyed population of BTGR from the Atlantic coast cannot be dismissed so consider all distinguishing characters.

Documentation-Needed

[HOME](#)

FINCHES *Fringillidae*

Evening Grosbeak

Coccothraustes vespertina

There have been five recorded incursions of this species, the first in early 1969, the last in the winter of 1985-86. Though never appearing before late December, they tended to linger at feeding stations well in to spring. It should be noted that these invasions occurred during a period when the species was increasing and expanding its range. Apparently it is now in decline so perhaps occurrences here are a thing of the past.

Early/Late Dates

Harrison Co 26 December 1972 (*Jackson, 1974 MK 4*)

Diamondhead 5-7 May 1987 DH (*Hodges, 1987 MK 17-2*)

Documentation- Photograph MSU

Comment

Perhaps “returning to previous status” would more accurately describe the current situation rather than “declining”. Whatever, reasons for the change are unclear-there are good summaries at *BNA* and at *birdsource.org*

House Finch

Haemorhou mexicanus

History

First record PortBien 18 November 1980 MH, JT (Toups and Hodges, 1981 MK 11-1)
(A few months after the first state record at Starkville).

First summer record Biloxi August 1988

First breeding record Harrison Co 1991

It did not appear in the Ansley-Heron Bay area until the mid 1990's but within the next few years became a common dooryard bird there. However, this population seems to have been wiped out by Hurricane *Katrina*.

Current Status

Overall a common permanent resident in the southern tier (though very scarce in some places since *Katrina*). Found almost entirely in the vicinity of human habitations. Northward, it is much more localized.

BBS Data

Began appearing sporadically on all routes in 2001-02.

Currently: Cyb 5/6 0-9; Ben 3/6 0-3; Lat 2/6 1-3; Nic. 0

CBC Data

Not recorded on either CBC until 1990 (but see following species). Currently the normal range for both counts is 10 to 60

High Counts

20 Moss Point 6 March 2015 A. Anholt (*ebird*)

40 Hurley, Jackson Co. 12 February 2016 B. Allums (*ebird*)

40 Waveland 24 November 2016 V. O'Conner(*ebird*)

Documentation Photograph MBRC Archives

Purple Finch

Haemorhous purpureus

General Status

An irregular winter visitor from late November to mid March Normally 1-5/sighting

Early/Late Dates

Heron Bay 15 November 1989 NB (*unpubl. rec.*)

Gulfport 29 November 1980 JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

Bay St L 29 November 1983 JT (*Schardien and Jackson, 1983 MK 13-2*)

PWMA 22 March 1999 CD, LE (*pers. comm. CD to JSP*)

Gulfport 30 March 1978 JT (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

PRWMA 15 April 1996 LJ (*ebird*)

CBC Data

Recorded on about half, normally 1-6. An unexplained sudden rise in numbers on both counts for a few years in the early 1980's might actually have been due to misidentified House Finches.

High Counts

10 Cybur, Pearl River Co. 5 February 2003 M McCullough (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

Pine Siskin

Spinus pinus

General Status

An irregular winter visitor from late November to mid March. Usually found only in very small numbers but occasionally numerous in incursion years.

Early/Late Dates

Waveland September 16, 1999TG (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

(Further details on this remarkably early date would be desirable)

flock of 15 Henleyfield 21 October 2010 NB (*unpubl rec*)

Gulfport 1 May 1981 JT (*Jackson, 1981 MK 11-1*)

Gulfport 8 May 1978 JT (*Jackson and Cooley, 1978 MK 8-2*)

Henleyfield May 10 2010 NB (*unpubl rec.*)

CBC Data

MSSH: Recorded eleven. Counts range for one to 40.

MSJC: Recorded only five times. Counts range from one to 15.

High Counts

15 Henleyfield 1 February 2016 NB (*ebird*)

33 Agricola, George Co. 13 February 2016 S. Swope (*ebird*)

35-50 E. Ship I. 11-15 February 1978 WW (*ebird*)

Documentation- Photograph MSU

American Goldfinch

Spinus tristis

General Status

A regular (sometimes abundant) winter visitor from late November to late March. Individuals often linger much later.

Early/Late Dates

Picayune 26 September 2014 J. Harris (*ebird*)

Biloxi 21 October 2006 K. Ostermiller (*ebird*)

Seaman Road 5 November 2009 (*Survey Team*)

Hancock Co 12 November 1986 CD, JT, et al (*pers. comm. to JSP*)

Clermont Harbor 14 November 1982 JB, JT (*Jackson, 1982 MK 12-2*)

Ocean Springs 13 May 1992 CC (*Schiefer 1993, MK 23-2*)

Ocean Springs 14-21 May 2016 MW (*ebird*)

Biloxi 15 June 1990 MB (*Schiefer, 1991 MK 21-1*)

Harrison Co 22 June 1991 D. Carter (*Schiefer 1992, MK 22-2*)

CBC Data

MSSH: Normal range 200 to 400.

MSJC: Normal Range 100-250.

High Counts

200 Ozona, Pearl River Co. 13 February 2016 (*ebird*)

300 Ocean Springs 26 February 2016 J. Wilder (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

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OLD WORLD SPARROWS, MANNIKINS *Paesseriidae, Estrildidae*

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

General Status

The quintessential urban species, the “Burger Kinglet” is not particularly common on the coast. Though a few can usually be found around the dumpsters of fast-food establishments, it is quite scarce in less settled areas. For instance:

only twice in twenty years (1986-2006) in a Heron Bay yard, singles 14 November 1999 and 21 October 2002; NB (*ebird*)

Once in ten years (2006-2013) at a Henleyfield yard 12 September 2012 NB (*ebird*)

BBS Data

Cyb 3/6 0-6; Ben 1/6 0-1; Nic and Lat 0

CBC Data

MSSH: Normal range, 5 to 50.

MSJC: Normal Range 10 to 50.

High Counts

60 PRM 12 August 1978 WW (*ebird*)

112 Ocean Springs 12 February 2012 P. Watkins (*ebird*)

Documentation-Specimen MMNS

[**Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata*]

An exotic, originally called Nutmeg Mannikin. First noted around Diamondhead in November, 2010 (J. Pyron, et al) and now seems to be well established there and in several other locales. Its status is currently being monitored by several observers who are accumulating information for the MBRC.

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LOCALES

Numbers are page references to [Birding Coastal Mississippi](#)

ACBS Audubon Coastal Bird Survey

Ansley 71

Bay St Louis 74

Bayou Caddy 74

Bayou Cassotte An industrial area east of Greenwood Island. No longer considered a viable birding spot.

BCNWR – Bogue Chitto NWR. Along the Pearl River in Pearl River County.

Bellebeach Bellefontaine Beach 100

Benndale A town in George County at the intersection of State Hwys 57 and 26.

Big Point 114

Biloxi 84-88

Broadwater Marina 84

Broadwater Sun Golfcourse/Old Broadwater Golfcourse Biloxi

BuccSP Buccaneer State Park 76

CataN Catahoula Farms, North. A private preserve w of Kiln. Entrance by permission only. Also called The Catfish Farm

CataS Catahoula Farms, South. A private preserve sw of Waveland. Entrance by permission only. Also called Jackson Ridge (JacRidge)

Catfish “The Catfish Farm” See CataN

Cat Island 128

Claremont Claremont Harbor 75

ClowerT Clower Thornton Nature Trail 89

Crossroads Park On MS 26 one mile east of the Pearl River

Dantzler Nature Preserve Lucedale

Davis Bayou 98

Deer Island 238 Note: BBMS account is quite outdated. This is currently a prime birding location.

Diamondhead An extensive residential complex just north of I-10 in eastern Hancock Co.

East Ship Island 128

Flint Creek Water park in Wiggins, Stone Co

Gautier 104

GB N/N Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge 105

Graveline Beach

Green Is Greenwood Island. A controlled access locale south of Pascagoula.

Greenwood Cemetery, Pascagoula

Gulfport 84-88
Heron Bay 71
Harrison Waterfront 84
Henleyfield 117
Hiller, Biloxi 184
Horn Island 128

JacRidge “Jackson Ridge” See CataN

Kiln In general, references to Kiln refer to Texas Flat Road 81
Klein's Fields A pasture along Lower Bay Road southwest of Waveland

Lakeshore 73
LaRue 110
Logtown 68
Long Beach 84-88
LPRWMA Lower Pascagoula Wildlife Management Area 112
Lyman Hatchery 95

MSCNWR Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge 108

ORWMA Old River Wildlife Management Area 117
Ocean Springs 96
Pass Christian 84-88
Pearlington 64
Pettit Bois 128
PortBien Port Bienville Industrial Park 70
PRAC Pascagoula River Audubon Center, Moss Point
PRM Pascagoula River Marsh (south of US 90)107
PRMCP Pascagoula River Marsh Coastal Preserve
Seaman Road 100
Sand Island 128
Singing River I 107 Entry is prohibited except for pre-arranged Audubon Coastal Bird Surveys.
Spence's Woods 65

Texas Flat Road 81
Triple Barrel This is the site historically known as PRM (Pascagoula River Marsh). It is currently controlled by U.S. Corps of Engineers and Jackson County Port Authority
Entry is prohibited except for pre-arranged Audubon Coastal Bird Surveys.

UPRWMA Upper Pascagoula River Wildlife Management Area 126

Van Cleave 113
Vidalia A community on the Harrison/Hancock border about five miles north of Diamondhead.

Wavelag-Waveland Lagoon 77
West Ship I 128
White's Bayou U.S. 90 in Hancock Co., east side of Pearlington.
Wiggins 120

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INITIALED OBSERVERS

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Harold Weber HW, Wayne Weber WW, Jeff Wilson JW_i, Jake Walker JW, L. Williams
LW, Nick Winstead NW, Mark Woodrey MW

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SOURCES

Am Birds= "American Birds". A periodical formerly published by the National
Audubon Society. Now published by The American Birding Association

under the name “North American Birds”. *americanbirding.org*
ACBS=Audubon Coastal Bird Survey
The Auk- Journal of the American Ornithologists’ Union. Available on-line at
the e-library of the University of New Mexico *elibrary.unm.edu*
Alabama Orn. Soc=Alabama Ornithological Society. Online at *bham.net/aos*
alaskabird.org. Website of the Alaska Bird Observatory
ALF Annotated List Files

BBMC=Birds and Birding On The Mississippi Coast-Toups and Jackson-
University Press of Mississippi

BBS Data summarized from the four currently active Breeding Bird Surveys
in the six county area

Cybur 30.7939126/-89.7137542

Benndale 30.8158367/-88.7687399

Necaise 30.6793407/-89.5109799

Latimer 30.4987757/-88.7992689

Unless specifically stated otherwise, data is from the six most recent years.

Example: “Cybur 6/6 12-20” is read as “recorded all years; count spread 12 to 20/year”

BCM=Birding Coastal Mississippi -Site guide and distribution bar-graph by
Toups, Bird and Peterson. Published by Stackpole Books

Birder's Guide to Alabama Porter, Jackson, et al.-A site guide, bar-graph,
selected species accounts. Published by University of Alabama Press.

Birding. Periodical published by The American Birding Association *americanbirding.org*

Birding World-A periodical published in the U. K. *birdingworld.co.uk*

birdsource.org An interactive site sponsored by National Audubon and
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

BNA=Birds of North America. An on-line subscription service provided by
The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the AOU. *bnabirds.cornell.edu*

BOM=Birds Of Mississippi-Turcotte and Watts-The state bird book

BoB=Ms Coast Band or Birders. An unedited Facebook Page. Data from this source are
used only after full documentation.

Burleigh 1944-The birdlife of the Gulf Coast Region of Mississippi.

An *Occasional Paper* of the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University.

CBC Data summarized from Christmas Bird Counts *Audubon.org/birds/cbc/*

Dittman and Cardiff-Authors of a series of ID articles to be found at the
Louisiana Ornithological Society website. *Losbird.org*

Gandy and Turcotte – A catalog of Mississippi Bird Records-MMNS

Gehlbach, 1994- The Eastern Screech Owl-Texas A&M Univ. Press.

Great Backyard Bird Count – A joint project of Nation Audubon and Cornell
Lab of Ornith. *birdsource.org/gbbc/*

Iowa Bird Life – Journal of the Iowa Ornithological Society *Iowabirds.org*

Iowa State Museum Tech Report –public.iowastate.edu

J. Field Ornithol – The journal of the Association of Field Ornithologists afonet.org

LSUMZ-Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology

LABIRD-Sponsored by Museum of Natural Science, Louisiana State Univ. museum.lsu.edu

Limpkin, The –Space Coast Audubon Society spacecoastaudubon.org

Migratory Bird Center- A program of the Smithsonian nationalzoo.si.edu

MISSBIRD –An unedited listserv. Data used only after full documentation.

MSSH -South Hancock Christmas Bird Count Audubon.org/birds/cbc/

MSJC-Jackson County Christmas Bird Count Audubon.org/birds/cbc/

MK-The Mississippi Kite-journal of the Mississippi Ornithological Society.

MMNS –Mississippi Museum of Natural Science

MSU –Mississippi State University

MOS website- Mississippi Ornithological Society - misstate.edu/org/mos/

No Am Birds – Publication of the American Birding Association-formerly

American Birds americanbirding.org

National Audubon-Audubon.org

oceanwanderers –A personal website maintained by Angus Wilson.

oceanwanderers.com

sdakotabirds.com Part of the birdzilla.com network

Southeastern Quail Study Group –seqsg.org

Survey Team-. A weekly survey at Seaman Road Sewage Lagoon by members of the MS Coast Aud Soc.

surfbirds.com The website of a group of international birders

Turcotte and Watts used on some citations for BOM

Toups and Jackson used on some citations for BBMC

UM University of Mississippi

U.S. Army Environmental Command Environmental

Update aec.army.mil/usaec/publicaffairs/update

USFWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fsw.gov

USGS U.S. Geological Service usgs.gov

USM University Southern Mississippi

USM GROUP-USM Migratory Bird Research Group usm.edu/mbrg/Archives

USNM United States National Museum

Wilson Bulletin available online at the Univ New Mexico eLibrary elibrary.unm.edu

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