Application for membership in the Mississippi Ornithological Society may be made to the treasurer. The Mississippi Kite is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Send change of address, requests for back issues, and claims for undelivered or defective copies to the treasurer.

Information for Authors

*The Mississippi Kite* publishes original articles that advance the study of birdlife in the state of Mississippi. Submission of articles describing species occurrence and distribution, descriptions of behaviors, notes on the identification of Mississippi birds, as well as scientific studies from all fields of ornithology are encouraged. All manuscripts, in both a hard copy and digital copy format, should be submitted to the editor.

**COPY** – Paper manuscripts should be *typed, double-spaced* throughout, on high quality paper. Digital copy manuscripts should be prepared using 12 pt. Times New Roman font. If possible, please submit computer files in Microsoft Word although WordPerfect formats will be accepted. Handwritten manuscripts will also be accepted, but please contact the editor prior to submission. Scientific names should be *italicized*.

**STYLE** – For questions of style consult previous issues of *The Mississippi Kite*. Manuscripts should include a title page (including names and addresses of all authors), text (beginning on page 2), literature cited (if applicable), tables, figure legends (on a separate page), and figures. Number all pages (in the upper right-hand corner) through the tables. Avoid footnotes.

**LITERATURE CITED** – List all references cited in the text alphabetically by the author’s last name in the Literature Cited section. Citations should conform to the style of a recent issue of *The Mississippi Kite*.


**TABLES** – Tables should be formatted with the size of *The Mississippi Kite* in mind and should be interpretable without reference to the text.

**FIGURES** – Figures should be appropriate for photoreproduction without retouching.
THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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COVER IMAGE: Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) pen and ink drawing by David A. Cimprich.
The Mississippi Bird Records Committee (MBRC) was established by the Mississippi Ornithological Society (MOS) to produce a field checklist of bird species known to occur in Mississippi. Although there is little published information on the founding and early years of the Committee, an account in the MOS Newsletter (Vol. 7, No. 4, 1962), announcing the publication of a revised field checklist, lists Erskine Gandy, Lovett Williams, Fannye Cook, and William Turcotte as the members of the Committee at that time. William Turcotte served as chairman of the Committee for many years until 1988 when Steve Peterson was elected as chairman. In addition to Bill Turcotte and Steve Peterson, other Committee members in 1988 included Ed Alexander, John Battalio, Marvin Davis, Malcolm Hodges, Jerome Jackson, Joe McGee, Hal Moore, Terence Schiefer, and Judy Toups. Through 1995 the Committee’s main function was determining the species of birds that should be included on the official state checklist. Decisions as to what species to include were generally made by consensus at Committee meetings after examination and discussion of the written or photographic documentation presented by Committee members. Unfortunately, there is little published record of the Committee’s activities other than the resulting published checklists.

In 1991 proposed bylaws were drafted that would formalize the proceedings of the Committee, and a modified version of these bylaws was approved by the MOS board of directors in 1994. Members that were later appointed by the MOS
board to the reconstituted Committee included Marvin Davis, Gene Knight, Terence Schiefer, Judy Toups, and Mark Woodrey. Schiefer was elected Committee Chair at the first meeting of the Committee under the new bylaws which was held 17 February 1996 at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science (MMNS) in Jackson. Subsequent Committee meetings were held 20 March 1999 at MMNS, 23 February 2002 at Mississippi State University, 19 June 2004 at University of Mississippi, and 4 December 2004 at MMNS. In addition to the Committee members who were initially appointed, several other individuals served on the Committee during this period: Charlie Delmas replaced outgoing member Judy Toups in 1999, Paul Hamel and Philip Barbour replaced outgoing members Marvin Davis and Mark Woodrey in 2001, and Ned Boyajian and Stephen Dinsmore replaced outgoing members Charlie Delmas and Terence Schiefer in December 2004, at which time Paul Hamel was elected as Committee Chair. This report covers committee activities from 1996 to 2004 when Schiefer served as Committee Chair.

The new bylaws that were adopted in 1994 and modified with minor revisions in 1999, 2001, 2002, and 2004 (Appendix B) were based on bylaws used successfully by the Records Committees of Alabama, California, and a number of other states. However, one significant departure from other states’ bylaws was the reduction in the number of Committee members to five from the more usual seven or nine. Because Mississippi has relatively few birders and ornithologists compared to most other states, it was felt that a Committee of seven Members would be difficult to sustain, and it remains a challenge to the Committee to find five qualified individuals who are willing to serve.

The impetus for the adoption of Records Committee bylaws was, in part, the realization that relatively few records of rare birds, other than first state records, were being documented by observers. To encourage documentation of additional records, the Committee developed and made available a Review List of species for which documentation was desired for all records, as well as a
Documentation Form on which observers could report the details of their sightings. Also, in September 1997, Terence Schiefer and Gene Knight gave a presentation to MOS members on how to document unusual bird sightings. Generally, the species on the Review List are those occurring on average less than once a year in Mississippi. The Review List of species as of March 2007 is given in this report following the list of records. See the MOS website (currently http://www.msstate.edu/org/mos) for future updates to the Review List and to see the latest version of the Documentation Form.

Records of Review List species received by the Committee are voted on by Committee members as to whether or not the submitted documentation is sufficient to substantiate the record. Although complete details on the voting procedures of the Committee are presented in the bylaws in Appendix B, a brief summary is given here. Copies of the submitted documentation are circulated among the Committee members, and each member votes on whether the documentation is “acceptable” or “not acceptable”. If the vote is not unanimous, the record is recirculated along with members’ comments. If a decision is not reached after the second circulation, the record is voted on at a Committee meeting. Records supported by specimen or photograph are also voted on at Committee meetings. During the time period covered by this report, circulation of records was done by mail because few members had internet access and some lacked personal computers. The mailing process, however, was not ideal because any member’s delay in voting caused a bottleneck in the process, often delaying the vote of other members by many months. Fortunately, the distribution of records and voting can now be done electronically, which helps to expedite the process.

It is important to note that Committee members vote on whether or not the submitted documentation is acceptable as scientific evidence of a bird’s occurrence, not on whether they believe an observer saw a bird. Records that are not accepted usually have brief, nonexistent, or ambiguous descriptions that do
not clearly differentiate the species reported from all other species. Ideally, descriptions should be based on field notes written while the bird was in view or shortly thereafter. Observers are encouraged to write field notes whenever they see a Review List species; the resulting documentation will be much easier for the observer to write, and the information will be more complete and accurate.

An important activity of the Committee is maintaining an official list of the birds of Mississippi. Each species of bird on the Checklist of Birds of Mississippi (hereafter referred to as the Checklist) should be documented by an existing specimen, photograph, or accepted written documentation. However, because there is no published record of earlier Committee activities that explains the decision for each species’ inclusion on the Checklist, and because it was feared that some documenting specimens or photographs may no longer exist, the Committee decided to review the status of documentation for each species on the Checklist.

The Committee determined that the best way to validate each species on the Checklist was to select a specimen, where one exists, to vouch for that species name on the list. In 1995, committee members Gene Knight, Terence Schiefer, and Mark Woodrey selected voucher specimens from the state’s largest bird collection at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. Voucher specimens for species not present in the MMNS at that time were later selected from the collections at Mississippi State University and University of Mississippi by Knight and Schiefer. A list of these specimens is presented in Appendix A. The selection of voucher specimens is an ongoing process, with the Committee planning to search for specimens in smaller Mississippi collections as well as in collections in other states. For species on the Checklist that are not represented by specimens, photographic vouchers will eventually be chosen. For species where no specimen or photograph exists, written documentation accepted by the Committee will vouch for the species. Any species currently
on the Checklist for which there is no extant specimen, photograph, or acceptable written documentation would need to be removed from the state list.

During the period of time covered by this report, members voted on records of birds occurring from January 1996 through November 2002 in addition to a number of earlier records mostly represented by specimens or photographs. In particular, all specimens of Review List species at Mississippi State University and most specimens of Review List species at University of Mississippi were reviewed. Exceptions include the numerous specimens of Western Meadowlark and some difficult species such as the Willow/Alder Flycatcher complex and Western Wood-Pewee which were deferred until later. Of the records voted on, 153 were accepted (with 18 of these being from prior to 1996) and 12 were not accepted (with one of these being from prior to 1996). In addition, 19 records (with five of these being from prior to 1996) were in the second or third round of voting at the end of 2004, and 104 records from January 1996 through November 2002, mostly those submitted without descriptions or those where additional documentation was anticipated, remained to be circulated. Records of all Review List species submitted to the Committee between January 1996 and November 2004, as well as those records voted on by the Committee from before 1996, were all entered into an Excel database that includes data on species, date, location, observer, type of documentation, and the results of Committee votes.

Accepted records based on specimens or photographs of the following species represent additions to the 1991 edition of the Checklist: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Inca Dove, White-eared Hummingbird, Anna’s Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Allen’s Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cassin’s Kingbird, Spotted Towhee, and Lesser Goldfinch. In addition, California Gull and Great-tailed Grackle were added to the state list based on accepted written documentation, and Ruff, previously included on the Checklist
based on written details, was documented by accepted photographic evidence for the first time.

For each species in the list below, information is presented as follows: Species name, number of records, and individual records listed chronologically. For each record, the number of individuals is underlined, followed by age or sex, date of occurrence, location, and initials of observers who submitted documentation with the type of documentation submitted following in parentheses. The record number and Class of the record are given in brackets. Class 1 records are documented by an accepted specimen, diagnostic photograph, or recording; Class 2 records are documented by accepted written documentation by two or more independent observers; Class 3 records are documented by accepted written documentation by a single observer. Where multiple observers are listed as having submitted written documentation for Class 3 records, only documentation from one of the observers was deemed acceptable by the Committee. Similarly, where photographs are listed as having been submitted for Class 2 or 3 records, the photograph was not considered diagnostic by the Committee, although the written documentation was acceptable. For specimens, the specimen depository is given followed by the specimen number indicated by an asterisk (*). Abbreviations used in this report are as follows: ad = adult; f = female, imm = immature; m = male; MSU = Mississippi State University; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; p = photographic documentation; UM = University of Mississippi; w = written documentation; WMA = Wildlife Management Area. A list of contributors is given following the list of records.

The MBRC solicits documentation of records for any species on the Review List. Even if a record has already been reviewed by the Committee, additional documentation is always welcome, especially additional photographs which may show features not visible on photos previously submitted. All documentation of Review List species should be sent to the current Chair of the MBRC: Gene Knight, 79 Hwy 9 W, Oxford, MS
Records and documentation for all other species not on the Review List should be sent to Terence Schiefer, Department of Entomology, P.O. Box 9775, Mississippi State, MS 39762 for possible use in Birds Around the State and regional reports in North American Birds and for archiving in the MOS bird records depository.

**Records Accepted**

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (2 records) -- 3, 17 Apr. 2000, Lake Kristen, Cherry Hill subdivision, Madison, Madison Co., KM (w, p) [00-12; Class 1-P]; 1, 8-9 May 2000, Castlewoods subdivision, Brandon, Rankin Co., CC (w), CR (p) [00-13; Class 1-P]

Tundra Swan (5 records) -- 1, 23 Dec. 1961, 3 miles south of Rosedale, Bolivar Co., MV (w) (UM *3200) [XX-19; Class 1-S]; 1 ad, 13 Feb.-18 Mar. 2000, Prairie Waters, Lowndes Co., TS (w) [00-2; Class 3]; 1 ad, 6-7 Jan. 2001, Prairie Waters, Lowndes Co., TS (w) [01-11; Class 3]; 1 imm, 15 Jan.-11 Mar. 2002, Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co., TS (w), JBe (w), SD (w) [02-2; Class 2]; 3, 26 Jan. 2002, Hwy 61, Washington and Bolivar Cos., GK (w) [02-3; Class 3]. Note: Tundra Swan was removed from the Review List in December 2004. Records prior to 2005 will still be reviewed by the Committee.

Common Merganser (8 records) -- 1 f, 1 Jan. 1999, near Little Texas, Tunica Co., QG (w) [99-1; Class 3]; 1 m, 17 Jan. 1999, Enid Lake, Yalobusha Co., GK (w) [99-2; Class 3]; 1 f, 27 Nov. 1999, Sardis Lake, Panola Co., GK (w) [99-26; Class 3]; 1 m, 18 Dec. 1999, Sardis Lake (county not recorded), DS (w) [00-9; Class 3]; 1 f, 30 Jan.-1 Feb. 2000, Oktibbeha County Lake, Oktibbeha Co., TS (w) [00-3; Class 3]; 1 f, 19-25 Dec. 2000, Oktibbeha County Lake, Oktibbeha Co., TS (w) [01-12; Class 3]; 1-2 f, 28 Dec 2000-14 Jan. 2001, Enid Lake, Yalobusha Co., GK (w) [01-1; Class 3]; 1 f, 22 Feb.-11 Mar. 2001, Browning Creek Lake, Oktibbeha Co., TS (w), JBe (w) [01-13; Class 2]. Note: Common
Merganser was removed from the Review List in December 2004. Records prior to 2005 will still be reviewed by the Committee.

Pacific Loon (3 records) -- 2, 17 Nov. 1997, Ross Barnett Reservoir, Madison Co., KH (w) [98-15; Class 3]; 1, 27-28 Nov. 1999, Sardis Lake, Panola Co., MD (w) [99-21; Class 3]; 1 imm, 20 Jan. 2002, Moses Pier, Harrison Co., SD (w) [02-8; Class 3]

Red-necked Grebe (1 record) -- 2 ad, 22 Feb. 2002, Horn Lake, DeSoto Co., RH (w) [02-9; Class 3]

Western Grebe (1 record) -- 1, 1 Dec. 2001, Long Branch Landing, Enid Lake, Yalobusha Co. SD (w), MD (w) [02-1; Class 3]

Glossy Ibis (5 records) -- 1, 2 May 1998, Blocker’s Bottom, Oktibbeha Co., TS (w) [98-4; Class 3]; 6, 22-29 Oct. 2000, Waveland sewage lagoon, Hancock Co., JB (w) [00-24; Class 3]; 1 ad, 16 May 2001, Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co., JBe (w) [01-17; Class 3]; 9 ad, 4 imm, 21 July 2002, near Blanton, Sharkey and Issaquena Cos., SD (w) [02-25; Class 3]; 1 ad, 4 Aug.-20 Oct. 2002, Yazoo NWR, Washington Co., SD (w) [02-47; Class 3].

Note: Glossy Ibis was removed from the Review List in December 2004. Records prior to 2005 will still be reviewed by the Committee.

White-faced Ibis (5 records) -- 1, 11 Jul. 1998, Black Bayou Unit, Tallahatchie NWR, Tallahatchie Co., GK (w), FB (w) [98-1; Class 3]; 1, 16-17 Oct. 1999, Yazoo NWR, Washington Co., GK (w) [99-22; Class 3]; 1 ad, 1 imm, 24 May 2000, Coldwater River NWR, Tallahatchie and Quitman Cos., FB (w, p) [00-11; Class 3]; 1 ad, 19 Sep. 2000, Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co., TS (w) [00-25; Class 3]; 2 imm, 13 Oct. 2002, Yazoo NWR, Washington Co., SD (w) [02-44; Class 3].

Note: White-faced Ibis was removed from the Review List in December 2004. Records prior to 2005 will still be reviewed by the Committee.
Roseate Spoonbill (15 records) -- 1 imm, 10 Aug.-29 Sep. 1998, Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co., TS (w), GK (w), DP (w), JR (p) [98-30; Class 2]; 1, 25 Jul.-21 Sep. 1999, Black Bayou Unit, Tallahatchie NWR, Tallahatchie and Quitman Cos., GK (w), FB (w, p), KK (w) [99-16; Class 1-P]; 1-2, 10 Aug.-10 Sep. 1999, Section Line Road, Lowndes Co., DP (w), TS (w) [99-23; Class 2]; 1, 28 Jul. 2000, near Merrill, George and Greene Cos., SW (w) [00-23; Class 3]; 1, 29 Jul.-5 Aug. 2000, Waveland sewage lagoon, Hancock Co., SP (w, p) [00-21; Class 1-P]; 1, 17 Oct. 2001, Ocean Springs, Jackson Co., SW (w) [01-21; Class 3]; 9-15 imm, 23 Aug.-14 Sep. 2002, Morgan Brake, Holmes Co., GK (w), SD (w) [02-29; Class 3]; 2 imm, 25 Aug.-14 Sep. 2002, Coldwater River NWR, Tallahatchie and Quitman Cos., GK (w), SD (w) [02-56; Class 3]; 2 imm, 29 Aug.-22 Sep. 2002, Noxubee NWR, Noxubee and Oktibbeha Cos., TS (w) [02-57; Class 3]; 6, 1 Sep. 2002, near Panther Creek, Yazoo Co., WP (w) [02-58; Class 3]; 2 imm, 7-16 Sep. 2002, Oktibbeha County Lake, Oktibbeha Co., TS (w), SD (w) [02-59; Class 3]; 4, 21 Sep. 2002, Lake Lee, Washington Co., EG (w) [02-45; Class 3]; 1, 22-25 Sep. 2002, Lower Pascagoula River WMA, Jackson Co., SW (w) [02-30; Class 3]; 1 imm, 2 Oct. 2002, Seaman Road sewage lagoon, Jackson Co., GM (w) [02-32; Class 3]; 7-9, 5-13 Oct. 2002, Shipland WMA, Issaquena Co., SS (w) [02-33; Class 3]. Note: Roseate Spoonbill was removed from the Review List in December 2004. Records prior to 2005 will still be reviewed by the Committee.

Northern Goshawk (1 record) -- 1 imm, 13 Oct. 1996, Near Crow’s Neck, Tishomingo Co., GK (w) [97-10; Class 3]

Swainson’s Hawk (5 records) -- 1, 27 Sep. 1952, 10 miles south of Rosedale, Bolivar Co., MV (w) (UM *2450) [XX-20; Class 1-S]; 1, 19 Oct. 1952, 9 miles south of Rosedale, Bolivar Co., MV (w) (UM *2461) [XX-21; Class 1-S]; 1, 5 Nov. 1997, Seaman Road sewage lagoon, Jackson Co., JP (w) [98-18; Class 3]; 1, 16 Apr. 2000, near Lower Lake, Sardis Dam, Panola Co., GK (w) [00-14; Class 3]; 1 ad, 15 Oct. 2002, Ansley, Hancock Co., NB (w) [02-34; Class 3]
Rough-legged Hawk (1 record) -- 1, 17 Feb. 2001, Yazoo NWR, Washington Co., DC (w) [01-3; Class 3]

Prairie Falcon (3 records) -- 1, 2 Nov. 1997, 7 miles south of Oxford, Lafayette Co., GK (w) [98-19; Class 3]; 1, 13 Dec. 1998-22 Feb. 1999, George Payne Cossar State Park, Yalobusha Co., GK (w), FB (w) [99-4; Class 3]; 1 ad f, 8 Jan. 2000, Enid Lake, Yalobusha Co., GK (w) [00-4; Class 3]

Yellow Rail (7 records) -- 1, 8 Mar. 1930, South of Maben, Oktibbeha Co. (MSU *8) [XX-17; Class 1-S]; 1, 4 Nov. 1997, T26N, R1W, Sec.2, south of Lambert, Quitman Co., FB (w) [98-20; Class 3]; 1, 9 Dec. 1997, T23N, R1E, Sec.1, Tallahatchie Co., FB (w) [98-9; Class 3]; 1, 16 Dec. 1997, T22N, R1E, Sec.12, Tallahatchie Co., FB (w) [98-10; Class 3]; 1, 26 Dec. 1997, T25N, R2W, Sec.26, near Sumner, Tallahatchie Co., FB (w) [98-11; Class 3]; 1, 9 Nov. 2000, Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR, Jackson Co., MW (w) [00-32; Class 3]; 1, 22 Apr. 2002, Lake George Wetland Restoration Area, Yazoo Co., SS (w) [02-23; Class 3]

Mountain Plover (1 record) -- 1, 30 Oct. 1996, Hurricane Landing, Sardis Lake, Lafayette Co., GK (w), MD (p) [97-11; Class 1-P]

Hudsonian Godwit (1 record) -- 2, 10 May 1998, Black Bayou Unit, Tallahatchie NWR, Tallahatchie Co., GK (w), FB (w, p) [98-5; Class 3]

Ruff (3 records) -- 1 m, 14 Mar. 1996, Black Bayou Unit, Tallahatchie NWR, Quitman and Tallahatchie Cos., TS (w), MD (w, p) [97-17; Class 1-P]; 1 m, 23 Mar. 1996, Tippo, Tallahatchie Co., TS (w, p), GK (w) [97-18; Class 1-P]; 1 f, 9-13 Mar. 1999, 1.5 miles south of Crowder, Quitman Co., MD (w), GK (w), FB (w, p) [99-12; Class 3]
Red-necked Phalarope (4 records) -- 1, 10 Sep. 1999, Black Bayou Unit, Tallahatchie NWR, Tallahatchie Co., FB (w, p) [99-28; Class 1-P]; 1-2 imm, 7-22 Sep. 2002, Humphreys Co., SD (w, p), GK (w) [02-35; Class 3]; 1, 1 Oct. 2002, near Bay Saint Louis, Hancock Co., NB (w) [02-36; Class 3]; 4, 2 Nov. 2002, near Bay Saint Louis, Hancock Co., NB (w) [02-37; Class 3]

Red Phalarope (1 record) -- 1, 7-8 Nov. 1996, Black Bayou Unit, Tallahatchie NWR, Tallahatchie Co., GK (w), FB (w, p) [97-19; Class 1-P]

Little Gull (3 records) -- 1, 15-16 Mar. 1970, Lower Lake below Sardis Dam, Panola Co., MD (w) (UM *3569) [XX-25; Class 1-S]; 1 imm, 9 Nov. 1997, Grenada Dam, Grenada Co., GK (w) [98-22; Class 3]; 1 ad, 1 Dec. 2001, Sardis Lake, Panola Co., SD (w) [02-10; Class 3]

Black-headed Gull (1 record) -- 1 ad, 6 Jan. 2002, Grenada Dam, Grenada Co., SD (w), GK (w), MD (w) [02-4; Class 2]

California Gull (1 record) -- 1 ad, 28 Dec. 1998, Clermont Harbor, Hancock Co., JT (w) [99-10; Class 3]

Lesser Black-backed Gull (4 records) -- 1 ad, 23 Jan. 1999, Clermont Harbor, Hancock Co., JB (w), SP (w, p) [99-6; Class 2]; 1 ad, 20-21 Oct. 2000, Coontown Landing, Sardis Lake, Lafayette Co., GK (w), MD (w) [00-27; Class 3]; 1 ad, 1-5 Jan. 2001, Biloxi and Gulfport, Harrison Co., GB (w), DC (w) [01-4; Class 2]; 1 ad, 9 Dec. 2001, Biloxi, Harrison Co., SW (w) [02-11; Class 3]

Glaucous Gull (1 record) -- 1 imm, 18 Feb. 1996, Enid Lake, Yalobusha Co., GK (w), MD (w) [97-1; Class 3]

Great Black-backed Gull (2 records) -- 1 imm, 4-9 Nov. 2000, Gulfport Harbor, Harrison Co., JB (w, p) [00-28; Class 1-P]; 1 imm, 10 Feb. 2002, Moses Pier, Harrison Co., SD (w) [02-12; Class 3]
Sabine’s Gull (2 records) -- 1 imm, 31 Aug.-3 Sep. 2001, Mississippi State University North Farm sewage lagoon, Oktibbeha Co., TS (w, p) [01-23; Class 3]; 1 imm, 6 Oct. 2001, Grenada Lake, Yalobusha Co., SD (w) [01-25; Class 3]

Black-legged Kittiwake (3 records) -- 1, 25 Jan.-10 Feb. 1969, Sardis Dam outlet, Panola Co., MD (w) (UM *3565) [XX-26; Class 1-S]; 1 imm, 15 Nov. 1996, Oktibbeha County Lake, Oktibbeha Co., TS (w) [97-14; Class 3]; 1 imm, 6-8 Dec. 2001, Columbus Lake, Lowndes Co., TS (w), JJ (w) [02-5; Class 2]

Sooty Tern (3 records) -- 12 ad, 1 Oct. 2002, Bay Saint Louis, Hancock Co., NB (w) [02-40; Class 3]; 1 ad, 4-5 Oct. 2002, Starkville, Oktibbeha Co., TS (w, p) [02-42; Class 1-P]; 1 ad, 4 Oct. 2002, Mississippi River north of Hwy 82, Washington Co., SD (w) [02-46; Class 3]

Bridled Tern (1 record) -- 1 ad, 1 Oct. 2002, Waveland sewage lagoon, Hancock Co., NB (w) [02-39; Class 3]

Pomarine Jaeger (1 record) -- 1 dark morph ad, 24 Jan. 1999, Long Beach, Harrison Co., JB (w), SP (w, p) [99-5; Class 1-P]

Inca Dove (2 records) -- 1, 8 Apr. 1996, Pass Christian, Harrison Co., BM (w) [97-6; Class 3]; 3, 7 Nov. 2001-2 Jan. 2002, 4 miles east of Arcola, Washington Co., CS (w), TS (w, p), GK (w), SD (w) [01-24; Class 1-P]

Burrowing Owl (5 records) -- 1, 11 Apr. 1937, 2 miles south of Moon Lake, Coahoma Co., MV (w) (UM *50) [XX-28; Class 1-S]; 1, 21 Feb. 1940, 12 miles north of Moorhead, Sunflower Co. (UM *51) [XX-29; Class 1-S]; 1, 20 Apr. 1958, Cleveland, Bolivar Co. (UM *2871) [XX-30; Class 1-S]; 1, 26 Nov. 1960, Cleveland, Bolivar Co., MV (w) (UM *3140) [XX-31; Class 1-S]; 1, 17-18 Nov. 2000, Stoneville, Washington Co., GK (w), CS (w) [00-29; Class 2]
White-eared Hummingbird (1 record) -- 1 imm f, mid-Nov. 1995-4 Jan. 1996, Gulfport, Harrison Co., BMS (w), BC (p) [XX-2; Class 1-P]

Anna’s Hummingbird (2 records) -- 1 ad f, 27 Nov.-30 Dec. 1995, Starkville, Oktibbeha Co., BMS (w, p), TS (w) [XX-3; Class 1-P]; 1 ad f, 9 Dec. 1995-9 Apr. 1996, Pass Christian, Harrison Co., BMS (w), BM (w), BC (p) [XX-4; Class 1-P]

Calliope Hummingbird (9 records) -- 1 imm m, 3 Jan. 1993, Diamondhead, Hancock Co., BMS (w, p) [XX-5; Class 1-P]; 1 ad f, late Oct. 1993-9 Feb. 1994, Ocean Springs, Jackson Co., BMS (w, p) [XX-6; Class 1-P]; 1 imm m, 26 Dec. 1994, Diamondhead, Hancock Co., BMS (w, p) [XX-7; Class 1-P]; 1 imm m, 30 Jan. 1995, Gulfport, Harrison Co., BMS (w, p) [XX-8; Class 1-P]; 1 ad f, 31 Jan. 1995, Diamondhead, Hancock Co., BMS (w, p) [XX-9; Class 1-P]; 1 ad m, 14 Nov. 1995-6 Jan. 1996, Diamondhead, Hancock Co., BMS (w, p) [XX-10; Class 1-P]; 1 ad f, 17 Jan. 2001, Diamondhead, Hancock Co., BMS (w, p) [01-7; Class 1-P]; 1 imm m, 19 Jan. 2001, Biloxi, Harrison Co., BMS (w, p) [01-8; Class 1-P]; 1 imm f, 19 Jan. 2001, near Biloxi, Jackson Co., BMS (w, p) [01-10; Class 1-P]. Note: Calliope Hummingbird was removed from the Review List in December 2004. Records prior to 2005 will still be reviewed by the Committee.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (4 records) -- 1 imm m, 6 Dec. 1993-16 Feb. 1994, Henleyfield, Pearl River Co., BMS (w, p) [XX-11; Class 1-P]; 1 imm m, 19 Dec. 1995-21 Apr. 1996, Pass Christian, Harrison Co., BMS (w), BM (w), BC (p) [XX-12; Class 1-P]; 1 ad f, 17 Jan. 2001, Diamondhead, Hancock Co., BMS (w, p) [01-8; Class 1-P]; 1 imm f, 21 Jan. 2002, Gautier, Jackson Co., BMS (w, p) [02-13; Class 1-P]

Allen’s Hummingbird (6 records) -- 1 imm m, 22 Nov.-mid Dec. 1992, Bay Saint Louis, Hancock Co. BMS (w, p), JT (w) [XX-13; Class 1-P]; 1 imm m, 9 Jan.-12 Mar. 1994, Pascagoula, Jackson
Co. BMS (w, p) [XX-14; Class 1-P]; 1 imm m, 31 Jan. 1995, Diamondhead, Hancock Co., BMS (w, p) [XX-15; Class 1-P]; 1 imm m, 20 Dec. 1995, Gulfport, Harrison Co., BMS (w), BC (p) [XX-16; Class 1-P]; 1 imm m, 27 Dec. 2001, Diamondhead, Hancock Co., BMS (w, p), JB (w) [02-14; Class 1-P]; 1 imm m, 20 Feb. 2002, Ocean Springs, Jackson Co., BMS (w, p) [02-15; Class 1-P]

Ash-throated Flycatcher (1 record) -- 1, 6 Feb.-9 Mar. 1999, Pascagoula River Marsh, Jackson Co., KH (w, p), CD (w) [99-7; Class 1-P]

Cassin’s Kingbird (1 record) -- 1, 23 May 1961, 0.5 miles south of Rosedale, Bolivar Co., MV (w) (UM *3171) [XX-40; Class 1-S]

Gray Kingbird (2 records) -- 1, 16 May 1996, Greenwood Island, Jackson Co., RP (w) [97-7; Class 3]; 1, 9 Jun. 1998, Biloxi, Harrison Co., GM (w) [98-2; Class 3]

Bell’s Vireo (2 records) -- 1, 4 Sep. 1999, Pascagoula River WMA, Jackson Co., CD (w) [99-33; Class 3]; 1, 14 Oct. 2002, Ansley, Hancock Co., NB (w) [02-43; Class 3]

Sprague’s Pipit (3 records) -- 1, 4 Jan. 1953, Legion Lake area, Bolivar Co., MV (w) (UM *2503) [XX-32; Class 1-S]; 1, 11 Jan. 1953, Legion Lake area, Bolivar Co., MV (w) (UM *2506) [XX-33; Class 1-S]; 1, 31 Oct. 1954, Perthshire, Bolivar Co., MV (w) (UM *2748) [XX-34; Class 1-S]

Black-throated Gray Warbler (1 record) -- 1, 12-14 Mar. 1998, Pascagoula, Jackson Co., LJ (w) [98-6; Class 3]

Spotted Towhee (1 record) -- 1, 16 Mar. 1953, Rosedale, Bolivar Co., MV (w) (UM *2544) [XX-35; Class 1-S]

American Tree Sparrow (2 records) -- 1, 1 Apr. 1938, Legion Lake area, Bolivar Co., MV (w) (UM *420) [XX-36; Class 1-S]; 1, 7-19
Feb. 2002, Starkville sewage lagoon, Oktibbeha Co., TS (w) [02-6; Class 3]

Harris’s Sparrow (6 records) -- 1 m, 18 Apr. 1953, Rosedale, Bolivar Co., MV (w) (UM *2556) [XX-37; Class 1-S]; 1 m, 19 Apr. 1953, Rosedale, Bolivar Co., MV (w) (UM *2558) [XX-38; Class 1-S]; 1 imm, 15 Feb. 1956, Rosedale, Bolivar Co., MV (w) (UM *2833) [XX-39; Class 1-S]; 1 ad, 25 Jan. 1996, near Sledge, Quitman Co., FB (w) [97-4; Class 3]; 1 imm, 27-29 Nov. 2000, Hwy 14 at Roby Creek, 2.5 miles west of Newport, Attala Co., TS (w), FH (w) [00-31; Class 2]; 1 imm, 2 Jan. 2002, near Maude, Tunica, RP (w) [02-16; Class 3]

Black-headed Grosbeak (2 records) -- 1 ad m, 22 Jan.-23 Mar. 1996, Oktoc Road near Noxubee NWR, Oktibbeha Co., TS (w), GK (w) [97-2; Class 2]; 1 imm m, 27 Feb. 1996, Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co., TS (w) [97-3; Class 3]

Great-tailed Grackle (1 record) -- 2, 20 Nov. 1996, I-10 near Pascagoula River, Jackson Co., PW (w) [97-15; Class 3]

Bronzed Cowbird (2 records) -- 1 ad m, 30 May 1999, Spence’s Woods, Hancock Co., JB (w) [99-15; Class 3]; 1 ad m, 6 May 2000, Spence’s Woods, Hancock Co., JB (w), SP (w) [00-17; Class 3]. Note: Bronzed Cowbird was removed from the Review List in December 2004. Records prior to 2005 will still be reviewed by the Committee.

Red Crossbill (5 records) -- 1 imm, 14 Sep. 1997, George Payne Cossar State Park, Yalobusha Co., GK (w), TS (w) [98-28; Class 2]; 1 ad m, 16 Jun. 1998, near Oxford, Lafayette Co., GK (w) [98-3; Class 3]; 2, 24 Apr. 2000, Quail Creek subdivision, Oxford, Lafayette Co., GK (w) [00-18; Class 3]; 7, 22 Dec. 2000, near Gore Springs, Grenada Co., KK (w), DW (w) [01-14; Class 2]; 1 f, 1 Dec. 2001, Enid Lake, Yalobusha Co., SD (w) [02-19; Class 3]. Note: Red Crossbill was removed from the Review List in
December 2004. Records prior to 2005 will still be reviewed by the Committee.

Lesser Goldfinch (1 record) -- 1 ad m dark-backed race, 4 Jan.-5 Mar. 2002, Clinton, Hinds Co., TS (w), GK (w), CD (w), SD (w), JE (p) [02-7; Class 1-P]

Records Not Accepted

Records Not Accepted (Class 4) are divided into two categories: Class 4-I, which are records not accepted based on questionable identification, and Class 4-O, which are records where identification is accepted but where origin is questionable (e.g., a bird believed to be an escapee from captivity). All Not Accepted Records in this report are Class 4-I. Generally, records are not accepted because the description provided by the observer fails to distinguish the species reported from all other species, or the description is too brief or incomplete to determine the species involved.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck -- 2, 21 Oct. 1998, Adams Co. (98-32; Class 4-I)

Cinnamon Teal -- 1, 25-27 Oct. 1997, Hancock Co. (98-17; Class 4-I)

Yellow-billed Loon -- 1, 19 Feb. 1995, Noxubee Co. (XX-1; Class 4-I)

Glossy Ibis -- 1, 15 Oct. 1997, Jackson Co. (98-16; Class 4-I)

Rough-legged Hawk -- 2, 20-22 Oct. 1998, Adams Co. (98-33; Class 4-I)

Pacific Golden-Plover -- 3, 10 Sep. 1998, Quitman Co. (98-34; Class 4-I)
Calliope Hummingbird -- 1, 31 Oct. 1999, Lowndes Co. (99-30; Class 4-I)

Western Wood-Pewee -- 1, 8 Nov. 1997, Warren Co. (98-25; Class 4-I)

Bell’s Vireo -- 1, 20 Sep. 1997, Lafayette Co. (98-26; Class 4-I); 1, 4 Oct. 2000, George Co. (00-30; Class 4-I)

American Tree Sparrow -- 1, 23 Dec. 2000, DeSoto Co. (01-5; Class 4-I)

European Tree Sparrow -- 1, 26 May-3 Jun. 1999, Lee Co. (99-20; Class 4-I)

Records in second circulation as of December 2004:

Chuckar -- 1, 2 Sep. 1955, Bolivar Co. (XX-22)

California Quail -- 1, 27 May 1956, Bolivar Co. (XX-23); 1, 27 May 1956, Bolivar Co. (XX-24)


Red Phalarope -- 1, 1-3 Oct. 2001, Oktibbeha Co. (01-22); 1, 28 Sep. 2002, Oktibbeha Co. (02-38)

Sooty Tern -- 1, 4 Oct. 2002, Issaquena Co. (02-41)

Red-crowned Parrot -- 1, 12 May-23 Oct. 1952, Bolivar Co. (XX-27)
Cave Swallow -- 1, 25 March 1986, Jackson Co. (XX-18)


**Records in third circulation as of December 2004:**


White-faced Ibis -- 1, 9 Sep. 1999, Jackson Co. (99-31)

Swainson’s Hawk -- 1-2, 22 Oct and 3 Nov. 1999, Jackson Co. (99-32)


Northern Saw-whet Owl -- 1, 20 Dec. 2000, Oktibbeha Co. (01-6)

Bell’s Vireo -- 1, 1 May 1996, Jackson Co. (97-8)

Western Meadowlark -- 1, 26 Dec. 1999, Sumner CBC, Co.? (00-10)

**Records from January 1996 through November 2002 yet to be circulated as of December 2004:**


Contributors mentioned in report: Jamen Berk (JBe), Gavin Bieber (GB), Jerry Bird (JB), Ned Boyajian (NB), Fred Broerman (FB), Bennett Carver (BC), Chris Chapman (CC), David Cimprich (DC), Marvin Davis (MD), Charley Delmas (CD), Stephen Dinsmore (SD), Joyce Ellis (JE), Emile Gardiner (EG), Q.B. Gray (QG), Ron Haaseth (RH), Ken Hackman (KH), Francis Henne (FH), Lucy Jacobson (LJ), Jud Johnston (JJ), Keith Kimmerle (KK), Gene Knight (GK), Gerry Morgan (GM), Karen Morgan (KM), B. Mac Myers (BM), Dianne Patterson (DP), Robert Peeples (RP), JoRee Pennell (JP), Stacy Peterson (SP), Wilma Pickett (WP), John Reinecke (JR), Curtis Ross (CR), Bob and Martha Sargent (BMS), Terence Schiefer (TS), Carl Smith (CS), Scott Somershoe (SS), Dana Swan (DS), Judy Toups (JT), M.G. Vaiden (MV), Dennis Welch (DW), Stephan Woltmann (SW), Mark Woodrey (MW), Peter Worthington (PW).

Review List species (updated through March 2007): Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan (prior to 2005), Eurasian Wigeon, Cinnamon Teal, King Eider, Common Merganser (prior to 2005), Pacific Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Audubon’s Shearwater, Wilson’s Storm-Petrel, Masked Booby, Neotropic Cormorant, Great Cormorant, Glossy Ibis (prior to 2005), White-faced Ibis (prior to 2005), Roseate Spoonbill (prior to 2005), White-tailed Kite,

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during my tenure as Committee chair. I would also like to thank the following individuals for providing access to or data from the collections under their care: Mark Woodrey (Mississippi Museum of Natural Science), Nick Winstead (Mississippi Museum of Natural Science), Paul Lago (University of Mississippi), Jerome Jackson (Mississippi State University), Eric Linder (Mississippi State University), and Tom Holder (Mississippi State University). Finally, I would like to acknowledge the many birders who have expanded our knowledge of Mississippi’s birdlife by taking the time to document their sightings through writing and photograph.
Appendix A. List of voucher specimens for the Checklist of Birds of Mississippi

Terence L. Schiefer
Mississippi State University
Department of Entomology
P.O. Box 9775
Mississippi State, MS 39762-9775

Gene C. Knight
79 Hwy 9 W
Oxford, MS 38655

Mark S. Woodrey
Coastal Research and Extension Center
Mississippi State University
1815 Popps Ferry Road
Biloxi, MS 39532

Nick Winstead
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
2148 Riverside Drive
Jackson, MS 39202-1353

Each of the following specimens was chosen as a voucher to substantiate that species’ presence on the Checklist of Birds of Mississippi. The specimens selected as vouchers were chosen at random except that those in good condition and having complete data were given preference. All vouchers are study skins except as noted, and each is labeled with a light green tag reading “Mississippi Ornithological Society, State List Voucher” with the scientific name of the species written on the tag by hand. Data for each voucher are presented as follows: species name, museum acronym, specimen number, county of collection, and date of collection. Specimens included in this list of vouchers are housed in either the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science (MMNS),
University of Mississippi (UM), or Mississippi State University (MSU). The list of vouchers is followed by a list of species for which vouchers were not yet chosen as of December 2004. Persons finding a dead individual of any of these species or other rare bird should preserve the specimen and contact Nick Winstead at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. In addition, complete specimens are desired for the two species represented only as partial specimens: White-winged Dove and Cave Swallow.

Gadwall [UM: 397] Bolivar Co., 11 Nov. 1943
Green-winged Teal [MMNS: AB5130] Bolivar Co., 3 Nov. 1924
Canvasback [UM: 2250] Bolivar Co., 4 Nov. 1951
Least Bittern [MMNS: AB3872] Lamar Co., 3 Apr. 1940
Great Blue Heron [MMNS: AB5135] Oktibbeha Co., 2 July 1927
Snowy Egret [UM: 40] Bolivar Co., 31 July 1944
Little Blue Heron [MMNS: AB781] Holmes Co., 5 May 1935
Tricolored Heron [UM: 3090] Bolivar Co., 28 June 1960
Green Heron [MMNS: AB5139] Copiah Co., 2 May 1925
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron [MMNS: AB4658] Monroe Co., 14 Apr. 1941
Glossy Ibis [MMNS: AB4873] Hancock Co., 4 May 1962
Swallow-tailed Kite [MMNS: AB4747] Pearl River Co., 28 June 1938
Sharp-shinned Hawk [MMNS: AB3883] Lee Co., 25 Apr. 1940
Cooper’s Hawk [MMNS: AB3348] Lee Co., 3 Jan. 1940
Merlin [MMNS: AB3781] Harrison Co., 2 May 1940
Yellow Rail [MMNS: AB3431] Lamar Co., 26 Jan. 1940
Clapper Rail [MMNS: AB2673] Harrison Co., 13 Sep. 1939
Sora [MMNS: AB3871] Lamar Co., 5 Apr. 1940
Semipalmated Plover [MMNS: AB3993] Harrison Co., 7 May 1940
Killdeer [MMNS: AB973] Lauderdale Co., 7 Sep. 1938
Spotted Sandpiper [MMNS: AB4662] Coahoma Co., 7 Aug. 1941
Solitary Sandpiper [MMNS: AB1857] Chickasaw Co., 8 Apr. 1939
Lesser Yellowlegs [MMNS: AB1856] Chickasaw Co., 8 Apr. 1939
Semipalmated Sandpiper [MMNS: AB3785] Harrison Co., 2 May 1940
Western Sandpiper [MMNS: AB2680] Harrison Co., 14 Sep. 1939
Pectoral Sandpiper [MMNS: AB4622] Chickasaw Co., 7 Apr. 1941
Dunlin [MMNS: AB4007] Harrison Co., 10 May 1940
Stilt Sandpiper [MMNS: AB4850] Jackson Co., 8 July 1961
Wilson’s Snipe [MMNS: AB1816] Pike Co., 7 Mar. 1939
Black Tern [MMNS: AB2133] Lee Co., 23 May 1939
Forster’s Tern [MMNS: AB4090] Hancock Co., 4 June 1940
Yellow-billed Cuckoo [MMNS: AB3992] Harrison Co., 22 May 1940
Barn Owl [MMNS: AB775] Lincoln Co., 8 Feb. 1938
Great Horned Owl [MMNS: AB3609] Copiah Co., 18 Nov. 1939
Short-eared Owl [MMNS: AB3257] Lamar Co., 6 Dec. 1939
Common Nighthawk [MMNS: AB189] Hancock Co., 11 May 1937
Chimney Swift [MMNS: AB2252] Lincoln Co., 18 May 1939
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker [MMNS: AB2909] Lee Co., 14 Nov. 1939
Pileated Woodpecker [MMNS: AB5196] Amite Co., 30 Nov. 1934
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher [MMNS: AB4226] Jones Co., 17 Sep. 1940
Acadian Flycatcher [MMNS: AB5211] Scott Co., 26 May 1925
Loggerhead Shrike [MMNS: AB4424] Pearl River Co., 25 Nov. 1940
American Crow [MMNS: AB3123] Lee Co., 17 Nov. 1939
Fish Crow [MMNS: AB4629] Claiborne Co., 30 Mar. 1941
Horned Lark [MMNS: AB3326] Chickasaw Co., 27 Jan. 1940
Purple Martin [MMNS: AB2352] Pike Co., 22 May 1939
Northern Rough-winged Swallow [MMNS: AB2209] Forrest Co.,
  24 May 1939
Red-breasted Nuthatch [MMNS: AB3616] Rankin Co., 16 Apr. 1940
Brown Creeper [MMNS: AB3366] Jones Co., 9 Nov. 1939
Winter Wren [MMNS: AB3025] Pearl River Co., 21 Nov. 1939
Swainson’s Thrush [MMNS: AB2130] Chickasaw Co., 11 May 1939
Hermit Thrush [MMNS: AB5248] Copiah Co., 11 Jan. 1927
Wood Thrush [MMNS: AB2058] Pearl River Co., 7 Apr. 1939
Gray Catbird [MMNS: AB4228] Pearl River Co., 16 Sep. 1940
European Starling [MMNS: AB3259] Pearl River Co., 29 Jan. 1940
American Pipit [MMNS: AB3121] Chickasaw Co., 13 Nov. 1939
Golden-winged Warbler [MMNS: AB1744] Pike Co., 8 Apr. 1939
Orange-crowned Warbler [MMNS: AB3814] Tishomingo Co., 2 May 1940
Yellow Warbler [MMNS: AB3773] Harrison Co., 26 Apr. 1940
Chestnut-sided Warbler [MMNS: AB3636] Jones Co., 22 Apr. 1940
Magnolia Warbler [MMNS: AB3857] Lamar Co., 1 May 1940
Cape May Warbler [UM: 1030] Bolivar Co., 9 May 1945
Yellow-rumped Warbler [MMNS: AB3896] Lee Co., 18 Apr. 1940
Yellow-throated Warbler [MMNS: AB3652] Wilkinson Co., 1 Apr. 1940
Prairie Warbler [MMNS: AB4589] Lee Co., 22 Apr. 1941
Palm Warbler [MMNS: AB4582] Lee Co., 15 Apr. 1941
Bay-breasted Warbler [MMNS: AB3811] Tishomingo Co., 30 Apr. 1940
Blackpoll Warbler [MMNS: AB3899] Lee Co., 1 May 1940
Cerulean Warbler [MMNS: AB3580] Tishomingo Co., 18 Apr. 1940
Prothonotary Warbler [MMNS: AB1554] Pike Co., 27 Mar. 1939
Northern Waterthrush [MMNS: AB4285] Chickasaw Co., 26 Aug. 1940
Louisiana Waterthrush [MMNS: AB3840] Tishomingo Co., 1 May 1940
Kentucky Warbler [MMNS: AB2606] Pearl River Co., 7 July 1939
Mourning Warbler [MMNS: AB4124] Lee Co., 5 June 1940
Hooded Warbler [MMNS: AB3517] Sharkey Co., 1 Apr. 1940
Yellow-breasted Chat [MMNS: AB4026] Lincoln Co., 26 Apr. 1940
Summer Tanager [MMNS: AB5285] Copiah Co., 27 Apr. 1925
Scarlet Tanager [MMNS: AB4562] Tishomingo Co., 25 Apr. 1941
Bachman’s Sparrow [MMNS: AB2656] Lee Co., 22 July 1939
American Tree Sparrow [MMNS: AB3331] Chickasaw Co., 1 Feb. 1940
Field Sparrow [MMNS: AB4053] Lincoln Co., 18 Dec. 1939
Lark Sparrow [MMNS: AB3842] Tishomingo Co., 30 Apr. 1940
Savannah Sparrow [MMNS: AB3758] Coahoma Co., 2 May 1940
Henslow’s Sparrow [MMNS: AB3103] Lamar Co., 29 Nov. 1939
Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow [MSU: 752] Lee Co., fall 1973
Fox Sparrow [MMNS: AB3234] Pearl River Co., 3 Jan. 1940
Song Sparrow [MMNS: AB3036] Pearl River Co., 27 Nov. 1939
Lincoln’s Sparrow [MMNS: AB4593] Lafayette Co., 7 May 1941
Swamp Sparrow [MMNS: AB1391] Jones Co., 10 Nov. 1938
White-throated Sparrow [MMNS: AB5363] Jones Co., 10 Nov. 1934
White-crowned Sparrow [MMNS: AB4615] Chickasaw Co., 7 Apr. 1941
Lapland Longspur [MMNS: AB4496] Chickasaw Co., 28 Jan. 1941
Rose-breasted Grosbeak [MMNS: AB1908] Tishomingo Co., 27 Apr. 1939
Blue Grosbeak [MMNS: AB5359] Clay Co., 29 June 1927
Indigo Bunting [MMNS: AB3914] Coahoma Co., 8 May 1940
Painted Bunting [MMNS: AB1694] Harrison Co., 11 Apr. 1939
Dickcissel [MMNS: AB3721] Coahoma Co., 2 May 1940
Rusty Blackbird [MMNS: AB2975] Jones Co., 21 Nov. 1939
Brewer’s Blackbird [MMNS: AB3412] Chickasaw Co., 29 Feb. 1940
Orchard Oriole [MMNS: AB3917] Coahoma Co., 6 May 1940
Baltimore Oriole [MMNS: AB1900] Copiah Co., 27 Apr. 1939
Purple Finch [MMNS: AB3240] Chickasaw Co., 3 Jan. 1940

Appendix B. Bylaws of the Mississippi Ornithological Society’s Mississippi Bird Records Committee as of December 2004

BYLAWS OF THE MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY’S
MISSISSIPPI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

I. NAME AND AFFILIATION

A. Name. The official name of this organization shall be the “Mississippi Ornithological Society’s Mississippi Bird Records Committee” which may be shortened to the “Mississippi Bird Records Committee” and is hereafter referred to as the “Committee”.

B. Affiliation. This is a committee of the Mississippi Ornithological Society.

II. PURPOSES

A. Evaluate records of birds from only the State of Mississippi and adjacent waters. “Adjacent waters” is herein defined as that area that is within a longitudinal line drawn as an extension of the border with Alabama and a line drawn halfway between the closest points of Mississippi and Louisiana.

B. Maintain permanently the original bird records and all Committee votes and comments for use by future bird students.

C. Publish at least minimal data on all records receiving a decision.

D. Provide a means by which the value of sight records as scientific data can be enhanced.

E. Increase knowledge of the birds of Mississippi.
F. Establish standards of observation and reporting against which field observers may compare their own techniques.

G. Keep or cause to keep the official Mississippi State List.

III. MEMBERSHIP

A. Number and Definitions. The Committee shall consist of five people, as follows: four “Members” plus a “Committee Chair,” each with one vote. For the purposes of these Bylaws, the Committee Chair is not considered a “Member.” The term “Voting Member” includes all four Members and the Committee Chair.

B. Qualifications. Anyone is eligible to become a Voting Member if, in the estimation of the existing Voting Members, that person has demonstrated an expert ability in and knowledge of field identification of birds and is an Active Member of the Mississippi Ornithological Society.

C. Members.

1. Election and Term of Office.

   a. The four Members shall be elected on a staggered basis, each for a term of three years (except in the case of the Committee Chair, as defined below). Election shall be by vote of a quorum present in person or represented by written ballot at the Annual Meeting of the Committee. Proxies shall not be used in this election, but an absent Voting Member may vote by indicating her/his choices in writing prior to the meeting. The candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected; if necessary, ties shall be decided by an additional ballot(s) listing only those persons tied. At least one alternate will be selected at this time based on the number of votes received. Election should be by secret ballot if there are more nominees than available positions.

   b. Members take office at the close of the Annual Meeting at which they were elected and serve until the close of the third Annual Meeting after election. The Members-Elect may, at the discretion of the Committee, be seated, without vote, during the remainder of the Annual Meeting at which they were elected.
c. Members must retire for one year before they may be considered for re-election.

d. During the initial five years of operation of the Committee under these Bylaws, four Members will have terms more than three years. One will retire after three years, two after four years, and two more after five years. Decision as to who will retire will be made by first calling for volunteers. If less than one person the third year or two persons the fourth year volunteer for retirement, then a random selection will be made (but will exclude the most recently elected Members at the end of the fourth year of operation).

e. The results of Committee elections are subject to the approval of the Mississippi Ornithological Society’s Board of Directors.

2. Nominations. An announcement of a pending vacancy in the Committee membership shall be made in the MOS Newsletter. Nomination of Members shall be made in writing to the Committee Chair at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. If the total number of nominees is not sufficient to fill the vacant seats, it is the responsibility of the Committee Chair to nominate the number of persons required. The Committee Chair shall mail the names of the nominees to all Members at least three weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting.

D. Committee Chair.

1. Qualifications.

a. In addition to the Qualifications of Membership above, the Committee Chair must not be both Committee Chair and one of the four Members.

b. The Committee Chair must have been a Member for at least one year (not necessarily the previous year).

c. The Committee Chair cannot take office if he/she has just completed three consecutive years of service on the Committee, except in cases where no other Member is qualified and/or available to serve as Committee Chair.

2. Election and Term of Office.
a. The Committee Chair shall be elected for a term of two years. Election shall be by vote of a quorum, present in person, not by proxy or absentee ballot, at the Annual Meeting of the Committee. Election should be by written ballot of those present. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected; if necessary, a tie shall be decided by an additional ballot(s) listing only those persons tied. The Committee Chair, if present, shall conduct the election. All voting Members, including the candidate, may vote.

b. The Committee Chair takes office at the close of the Annual Meeting at which he is elected and serves until the close of the second Annual Meeting after election.

c. If the Committee Chair’s term exceeds his elected term as a Member, his term as a Member shall be extended to be concurrent with his term as Committee Chair.

3. Nominations. Nominations for Committee Chair shall be made only by Voting Members and only at the Annual Meeting, either in person or by letter to an attending Member. Each nominator may make a maximum of one nomination, and may not nominate himself.

4. Duties.

a. Receive, circulate, and file all bird records and supporting data submitted to the Committee. Whenever possible the records filed should be originals as copies fade with age.

b. Vote on bird records (see Voting) and in all elections.

c. When possible, procure additional data on records when deemed desirable by a Voting Member, and especially when a record is to come up for discussion at a meeting of the Committee.

d. Prior to any meeting, furnish Members with a list of post-second-circulation records to be discussed.

e. Tabulate the results of all votes of the Committee.
f. With the approval of the Members, appoint chairpersons of subcommittees.

g. Call and preside at Committee meetings.

h. Keep current the Review List (see VI.A), furnish it to anyone upon request, and occasionally publish it in The Mississippi Kite or MOS Newsletter.

i. Furnish Members with such supplies as needed, including Evaluation Forms (see VI.I.1).

j. Furnish Members with a list of nominees for membership election at least three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

k. Furnish anyone, upon request, with copies of all evidence, including Committee comments (without Members’ names), concerning any accepted or rejected bird record.

l. Furnish Report Forms to anyone upon request and free of charge.

m. Keep current a master copy of these Bylaws and assure that they are appropriately applied.

n. Keep or cause to keep minutes of meetings of the Committee.

E. Removals. The Committee may remove, for cause, the Committee Chair or Members who are delinquent in their duties. Such action requires a vote of the majority of all other Voting Members, not merely of a quorum. A removal must be accomplished at a meeting of the Committee; absent Voting Members may vote by written ballot to the Committee.

F. Vacancies and Special Elections. If the Committee loses a Voting Member during mid-term (through death, resignation, removal, etc.), the alternate will take his place. If no alternate exists, the Committee Chair shall immediately conduct an election, termed a Special Election, for the purpose of filling the vacancy. A Special Election may be conducted at a meeting or by individual contact (mail, telephone, etc.), whichever is
most expedient in the opinion of the Committee Chair. The manner of nomination and election shall be similar, with appropriate exceptions, to the regular selection of a Member or Committee Chair, whichever pertains. The person elected shall serve the unexpired term of the person being replaced.

G. **Compensation.** Neither the Committee Chair nor a Member may receive compensation for his services, but may be reimbursed by the Treasurer of the Mississippi Ornithological Society for expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of her/his duties (i. e. postage and photocopying, not travel and lodging).

**IV. MEETINGS**

A. **Annual Meeting.** An Annual Meeting of the Committee shall be held once a year, at a time and place set by the Committee Chair, in consultation with the Members, for the purpose of election and for transacting such other business as may be brought before the Committee. The Committee Chair must give to all Members prior notice of the Annual Meeting, together with an agenda and list of nominees for Members.

B. **Special Meetings.** Special Meetings of the Committee may be called by the Committee Chair or by agreement of three or more Members. Whoever calls the meeting must notify and provide an agenda to each Voting Member prior to the meeting.

C. **Quorum.** Four Voting Members in good standing, present in person, not by proxy, shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the Committee.

**V. BYLAWS**

A. **Formation.** All Bylaws and other procedures of the Committee are to be determined by the Committee, except that they may not be inconsistent with the Bylaws of the Mississippi Ornithological Society or with rules adopted by its Board of Directors.

B. **Review.** The Bylaws shall be reviewed regularly, at least once every five years, by the Committee.
C. Changes. These Bylaws may be changed by a majority vote of a quorum at any Committee meeting subject to the approval of the Mississippi Ornithological Society’s Board of Directors.

VI. BIRD RECORDS

A. Definitions. For the purposes of this Committee and these Bylaws, a “record” is considered to be written documentation submitted to the Committee as proof of the identity of a sighted, heard, collected, banded, or photographed bird. The “Review List” is that most recent list of species that will be accepted for review by the Committee.

B. Classification of Records. The classification of bird species and observations is based on the following categories where I-S is the highest and IV is the lowest.

1. Class I-S. An existing identifiable specimen adequately labeled as to date, place, and collector, and available for public inspection.

2. Class I-P. A diagnostic photograph adequately labeled as to date, place and photographer, a copy of which is deposited with the Committee.

3. Class I-R. A diagnostic recording or sonogram adequately labeled as to date, place and recorder and available for public inspection.

4. Class II. An accepted sight record documented independently by two or more observers.

5. Class III. An accepted sight record documented by one observer.

6. Class IV. A record not accepted by the Committee.

C. Official State List. Species on The Official State List of Mississippi must meet Class I, II, or III criteria to be listed and will be listed according to Class.
D. Occurrence Status. The status of each species on the state list will be reviewed at least once every five years and is based on the following definitions.

1. Regular. Species recorded 8, 9, or 10 of the last ten years.

2. Casual. Species recorded 4, 5, 6 or 7 of the last ten years.

3. Accidental. Species recorded 3 or fewer of the last ten years.

4. Extirpated. A previously regularly occurring species that has not been recorded in the state in fifty years.

5. Extinct. Species which no longer exist.

E. Records Treated.

1. Records only from the State of Mississippi and adjacent waters (as defined in II.A) will be treated.

2. The species treated will be determined from time to time by the Committee. In general, the Review List will initially consist of species that have occurred within Mississippi and adjacent waters on a casual or accidental basis in the ten years immediately preceding the last revision of the Review List. By majority vote of a quorum at a meeting, the Committee may, as it sees fit, revise the Review List. Records of species not on the Review List, but for which there are no accepted records for Mississippi, will be treated.

3. The criteria for inclusion on the Review List, and the species listed, will be reviewed at least once every five years.

4. The Committee Chair will be sure that the Review List is duplicated, made available to all who request it, and occasionally published in The Mississippi Kite and/or MOS Newsletter.

5. Records based on specimens or bandings will be accepted and treated in the same manner as other records.

6. Any record, whether published or not, old or new, may be submitted by a Voting Member or other person, whether or not an
observer, if he has first attempted to obtain details from the observer(s). An exception to this is a record that has received a previous Committee decision (see Resubmission).

7. Records concerning species that are only locally or temporally rare in Mississippi will not be treated.

8. Subspecies will not be treated unless listed as such on the Review List.

F. Submission. Records should be, but need not be, submitted on the Committee’s official Report Form. The Committee Chair should see that these forms are readily available at no charge to all that request them.

G. Resubmission. A record that has received a final Committee decision, whether accepted or rejected, and even though published in the Committee Annual Report, may be resubmitted by the Committee Chair, a Member, an observer, or any other person, if and only if there becomes available new and substantial documentary evidence that might reverse the decision. For a record rejected because of questionable origin, such evidence might include the recognition of a natural pattern of occurrence. Such a record must be resubmitted and circulated as if never before submitted, except that it should be accompanied by all previous votes and comments of the Committee, its publication status, and all new evidence marked as such.

H. Circulation Procedures.

1. Initial Receipt by the Committee Chair. Upon receipt of a record, the Committee Chair should do the following:

   a. Affix to it a unique number, consisting of the year of receipt (not the year of observation) followed by a hyphen and the next available unused number, starting with “1”, for that year. Records predating the formation of the Committee should be labeled in a similar fashion except that the year should be replaced by “XX”. If a record is represented by descriptions from more than one person, each description should receive the same number followed by a capital letter in sequence beginning with “A”.
b. Record in a safe place at least the name of the reporter, the name of the bird species, the date and locality of the record, and the record’s number.

c. Check the description for completeness and clarity and, if deemed desirable, request additional information from the reporter or other observers. Details thus acquired must be clearly marked as such and kept separate from the original submission; the original submission should not be returned to the reporter except in copy form.

d. Vote on the record (see Voting).

e. Send the record (along with other records, if desired), to a Member along with cover sheet, which must list in order of circulation, the names and addresses of all Voting Members, with the Committee Chair listed last, as well as the numbers both of the record(s) and the circulation round.

2. Receipt by Member. Upon receipt of a record, the Member should do the following:

a. Evaluate it and vote.

b. Send the record to the next Member as soon as possible.

c. Send the completed Evaluation Form to the Committee Chair.

d. The last Member to vote should return the record to the Committee Chair.

e. Proposed lengthy absences from a Member’s mailing address should be reported to the Committee Chair. The circulation may be rerouted to accommodate such absences.

3. Recirculation.

a. A record shall be recirculated automatically, together with the votes and comments of every Member from the
previous circulation (without the Members’ names), if it does not receive
a decision vote on the first round.

b. If after recirculation the record still has not received
a decision vote, it will be kept by the Committee Chair until it can be
discussed at a meeting of the Committee.

c. The Committee Chair should solicit additional
information from the reporter or other observers for any record
scheduled to come before the assembled Committee.

d. Prior to each meeting, the Committee Chair should
inform Members of any post-recirculation records scheduled for
discussion.

e. A record that has not received a decision vote after
two circulations is to be discussed and voted upon at a meeting of the
Committee. The final decision must be made at the first meeting in
which the record is discussed and will be made by a majority vote of a
quorum, present in person.

f. Regardless of whether or not a “final” decision is
reached during the two circulations (but not at a meeting), any Voting
Member may bring up a controversial record for discussion at a meeting
of the Committee.

g. Regardless of whether or not a “final” decision is
reached during the first circulation (but not during the recirculation or at
a meeting), the Committee Chair may recirculate a record if he feels that
the Committee’s comments might alter the decision.

h. All decisions are final unless a record is to be
resubmitted.

4. Supplemental Circulation. A record predating the
formation of the Committee, for which a “final” “non-accept” decision is
reached, will be circulated again with a Supplemental Evaluation Form.
The procedure for supplemental circulation is analogous to regular
circulation, including the recirculation of the record if it does not receive
a decision vote on the first round of supplemental circulation.
5. Exceptions to Circulation. A record supported by specimen, photograph, or recording should not be circulated in the usual way. Instead, copies of the written portion of the record should be distributed to each Member for review prior to a Committee meeting. Voting on the record will be conducted in the usual way at a meeting of the Committee (see Voting).

I. Voting.

1. Evaluation Forms. The vote of each Voting Member, together with his comments, if any, must be submitted on an official Evaluation Form. This form must include spaces for at least the: (a) record number, (b) name of the species, (c) name of the Voting Member, (d) date of review, (e) number of the circulation, (f) Voting Member’s decision, and (g) comments.

2. Voting Categories.
   a. Accept
   b. Reject, origin questionable.
   c. Reject, identification questionable.

   Note: (b) and (c) are both termed “non-accept” votes.

3. Abstentions. Voting Members may not abstain from voting.

4. Committee Chair Vote. The Committee Chair must vote. On the first circulation, he/she must vote prior to sending the record to Members (thus without seeing Members’ comments).

5. Comments. On the first circulation, a “reject” vote should be supported by appropriate comments. On the second circulation, either a “reject” or “accept” vote should be supported by comments.

6. Consultations. On the first circulation, a Voting Member should not discuss a record with another Voting Member prior to both having voted. On the second circulation, prevote discussions with other Voting Members are acceptable. On any circulation, a Voting Member may consult anyone outside the Committee before voting.
7. **Voting Criteria.** The criteria used by a Voting Member for acceptance or rejection of a record are an individual matter and should not be treated by these Bylaws except that reasons for a “non-accept” vote must meet the criteria of VI.I.2.b,c.

8. **Change in Members.** A circulation in progress at the time a new member(s) is elected should be completed by the retired Member (except that removed Members do not qualify). Subsequent circulations, and hence in some cases final voting, should be completed by the new Member(s).

9. **Tabulation.** The voting results are tabulated by the Committee Chair after all Voting Members have voted.

10. **Decision from Circulations.**

    a. On the first circulation, with all Voting Members voting, a record is considered accepted if it receives a unanimous “accept” vote. A record is considered rejected if it receives a unanimous “non-accept” vote. The record is recirculated if it receives any other combination of votes.

    b. On the second circulation, with all Voting Members voting, a record is considered accepted if it receives a unanimous “accept” vote or if it receives no more than one “non-accept” vote. A record is considered rejected if it receives a unanimous “non-accept” vote or if it receives no more than one “accept” vote.

    c. After the second circulation, a record is to be presented at a meeting if it receives votes in any combination other than in (b) above. If a record receives a tie vote when presented at a meeting, the results of the second circulation vote should be used to break the tie.

11. **Voting at Meetings.** Voting on records at meetings should be by written ballot of those present.

12. **Rejected Records.** Any rejected record that receives two or more “reject, identification questionable” votes will be published as “unaccepted, identification questionable.” All other rejected records will be published as “unaccepted, origin questionable.”
13. **Accepted Records.** Any accepted record that receives “accept” votes in more than one Class of record should be assigned to the Class that receives the majority of votes.

14. **Supplemental Evaluation Forms.** In supplemental circulation, the vote of each Voting Member, together with his comments, if any, must be submitted on an official Supplemental Evaluation Form. This form is similar to the regular Evaluation Form, except that voting categories are “not accepted, but likely to be correct” and “not accepted, possibly incorrect”.

15. **Voting on Supplemental Circulations.** Voting on supplemental circulations is conducted in the same manner as for regular circulation, except that a Supplemental Evaluation Form is used. Decisions from supplemental circulation are determined in a manner analogous to regular circulation.

J. **Publication.**

1. The decisions of the Committee shall be published annually, under the authorship of the Committee Chair and others if desired, in the form of an Annual Report, in *The Mississippi Kite*. A section of this Annual Report shall be devoted to bringing the Mississippi State List up to date.

2. The published data for accepted and rejected records should include at least the name of the species, date(s) of observation, and locality. Names of observers should not be published with rejected records. The term “unaccepted” should be used instead of “rejected.” Other data may be added at the discretion of the Committee Chair and Members.

3. “Pending records” should not be published in *The Mississippi Kite*.

These Bylaws are a modification of the Bylaws of the Western Field Ornithologists’ California Bird Records Committee as modified by the Alabama Ornithological Society’s Alabama Bird Records Committee.
Terence Lee Schiefer
31 January 1994

Mississippi Ornithological Society
Organized 30 April 1955

**Officers**

President        Bill McGehee  
114 Pecanwood Dr.  
Natchez, MS 39120  

Vice President       Sarajane Smith  
22539 Miller Edwards Rd.  
Saucier, MS 39574  

Secretary        Frances Henne  
6684 Attala Co. Hwy. 14  
Goodman, MS 39079  

Treasurer        Jan Dubuisson  
22410 Glad Acres  
Pass Christian, MS 39571  

Editors: MOS Newsletter        Gene and Shannon Knight  
79 Highway 9 West  
Oxford, MS 38655  

Co-Editors: *The Mississippi Kite*        Margaret Copeland  
Nick Winstead  
Marion Schiefer  
P. O. Box 1505  
Starkville, MS 39760  

**Mississippi Ornithological Society Memberships**

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Membership dues should be sent to the Treasurer.