

# THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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# THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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

# THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

*The Mississippi Kite* is a biannual periodical published by the Mississippi Ornithological Society to record and further the study of Mississippi birdlife.

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COVER IMAGE: Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)  
pen and ink drawing by David A. Cimprich.

**MISSISSIPPI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT-2009**

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The Mississippi Bird Records Committee (MBRC) of the Mississippi Ornithological Society was created to produce and keep a field checklist of the bird species that occur in Mississippi. The MBRC requests and reviews documentation on any record of a MBRC Review List Species which can be found at the end of this report or at the MOS Website at <http://www.mos.org.msstate.edu>. This is the third report of the MBRC and it covers committee activities from 2009-2010. Gene Knight is the Committee Chair and Philip Barbour, Ned Boyajian, Stephen Dinsmore, and Nick Winstead served as MBRC Members.

The MBRC reached a final decision on 86 records in 2009. Eighty-five records of 46 species were accepted and one record was not accepted. Nineteen more records were sent to 2<sup>nd</sup> Circulation and four sent to a 3<sup>rd</sup> Circulation process. Final decisions on these 23 records will be voted on in the future. Thirty-five observers submitted documentation to the MBRC on the records that were reviewed by the Committee in 2009.

The information presented after each species is as follows: Species name, the number of individuals, the age or sex, date of occurrence, location, county in italics, and the initials of the observers. When known, the initials of those who discovered the bird are in boldface but only if the discoverers submitted supporting documentation. After the observers' initials, the type of documentation is followed in parentheses. The MBRC Record number and Class of the record are given in brackets.

Accepted records fall into three classes. Class 1 records are documented by an accepted specimen, diagnostic photo, 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.

Abbreviations used in this report are as follows: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, p = photographic documentation, SP = State Park, w = written documentation, WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

### Accepted Records

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) 2 adults and 7 juveniles on 16-19 October 2003 at Cox's Ponds, Yazoo NWR, *Washington*, **DL**(w), **SD**(p), **TS**(w) [03-42; Class 1P]; 1 adult and 9 eggs on 8 June 2005, 9 adults on 24 July 2005 at Yazoo NWR, *Washington*, **DL**(w,p), **MS**(w) [05-30; Class 1P]; 1 adult on 13 July 2006 at Seaman Road Sewage Lagoon, *Jackson*, **CD**(w), **SM**(p) [06-10; Class 1P]; 1 adult on 18 September 2006 at St. Catherine Creek NWR, *Adams*, **BM**(w) [06-16; Class 3]

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck** (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) 2 on 22 April 2004 at Greenwood Island, *Jackson*, **SD**(w,p) [04-26; Class 1P]; 9 on 13-16 October 2004 at Waveland, *Hancock*, **CE**(w,p) [04-46; Class 1P]; 25-28 on 10-14 June 2008 at Mahannah WMA, *Issaquena*, **KBr**(w,p), **RH**(w,p), **GK**(w,p) [08-16; Class 1P]

**Pacific Loon** (*Gavia pacifica*) 1 adult on 18 January and 3 February 2004 at Bay Springs Lake, *Tishomingo*, **SD**(w), **GK**(w),

WP(w,p) [04-3; Class 1P]; 1 on 26 December 2005 at Bay Springs Lake, *Tishomingo*, **WP**(w,p) [06-1; Class 1P]; 1 on 24 March 2006 at Bay Springs Lake, *Tishomingo*, **WP**(w,p) [06-7; Class 1P]; 1 adult on 17 January 2007 at Bay St. Louis, *Hancock*, **NB**(w) [07-2; Class 3]

**Western Grebe** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) 1 in alternate plumage on 7 May 1997 at Oktibbeha County Lake, *Oktibbeha*, **TS**(w) [97-48; Class 3]; 1 adult on 24 December 2006-10 January 2007 at Bay Springs Lake, *Tishomingo*, **WP**(w), **GK**(w) [07-4; Class 2]

**Neotropic Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) 1 subadult on 28 February-4 March 2003 at Cold Lake, *Humphreys*, **GK**(w), **SD**(w), **TS**(w) [03-1; Class 2]; 1 adult and 1 subadult on 9 August 2003 at St. Catherine Creek NWR, *Adams*, **TS**(w), **GK**(w) [03-32; Class 2]; 1 subadult on 30 August 2003, *Humphreys*, **SD**(w) [03-45; Class 3]; 1 subadult on 2 July 2006 in *Humphreys*, **SD**(w,p) [06-8; Class 1P]; 1 subadult on 2 July 2006 at Dutch Brake, *Sunflower*, **SD**(w,p) [06-9; Class 1P]; 1 on 1 September 2007 at Dutch Brake, *Sunflower*, **GK**(w) [07-14; Class 3]

**White-faced Ibis** (*Plegadis chihi*) 1 adult in alternate plumage on 3-4 May 1997 at Noxubee NWR, *Noxubee*, **TS**(w) [97-49; Class 3]

**Roseate Spoonbill** (*Platalea ajaja*) 13 on 15-16 August 1998 at St. Catherine Creek NWR, *Adams*, **WPI**(w) [98-31; Class 3]; 1 adult, 6 subadults, 3 chicks on 30 June-5 July 2004 at White's Lane, *Yazoo*, **MS**(w), **DM**(p) [04-35; Class 1P] 1<sup>st</sup> Nesting Record for Mississippi

**Ferruginous Hawk** (*Buteo regalis*) 1 light morph juvenile on 28 December 2004-6 January 2005 on Buck Island Road, *Tunica*, **GK**(w,p) **SD**(w,p), **TS**(w), **RP**(w) [05-3; Class 1P]

**Rough-legged Hawk** (*Buteo lagopus*) 1 adult female on 15 January-19 February 2005 off Arkabutla Dam Road, *Tunica*, GK(w,p), RP(w) [05-4; Class 1P]; 1-4 birds on 1 December 2007-12 January 2008 near Buck Island Road, *Tunica*, GK(w,p), WP(w,p) [08-4; Class 1P]

**Prairie Falcon** (*Falco mexicanus*) 1 adult female on 18 January 1998 at Cossar SP, Enid Lake, *Yalobusha*, GK(w) [98-8; Class 3]

**Yellow Rail** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) 3 on 8-9 November 2006 at Yazoo NWR, *Washington*, NW(w,p) [06-22; Class 1P]

**Hudsonian Godwit** (*Limosa haemastica*) 6 adults on 6 September-2 October 2004 in *Humphreys*, SD(p), GK(w) [04-53; Class 1P]

**Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*) 1 Reeve on 26 April 1997 at Prophet Bridge, Hwy 315, *Lafayette*, GK(w) [97-50; Class 3]; 1 Reeve on 3 August 2006 near Belzoni, *Humphreys*, SD(w) [06-20; Class 3]

**Red-necked Phalarope** (*Phalaropus lobatus*) 1 adult female on 16 May 2004 at Tupelo Water Treatment Plant, *Lee*, WP(w,p) [04-21; Class 1P]; 1 juvenile on 4 and 6 September 2004, 1 juvenile on 2 October 2004 in *Humphreys*, SD(w,p) [04-68; Class 1P]

**Little Gull** (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) 1 2<sup>nd</sup> winter bird on 19 January 1997 at Grenada Dam, *Grenada*, GK(w) [97-36; class 3]; 1 2<sup>nd</sup> winter bird on 9-10 February 1997 at Sardis Dam, *Panola*, GK(w) [97-37; Class 3]; 1 juvenile on 14 and 21 November 2004 at Enid Lake, *Yalobusha*, SD(w,p), GK(w) [04-55; Class 1P]

**Thayer's Gull** (*Larus thayeri*) 1 1<sup>st</sup> winter bird on 15-16 January 2005 at the Tunica County Landfill, *Tunica*, GK(w) [05-7; Class 3]

**Glaucous Gull** (*Larus hyperboreus*) 1 1<sup>st</sup> winter bird on 6 March 1997 at Sardis Dam, *Panola*, **GK**(w) [97-51; Class 3]

**Sabine's Gull** (*Xema sabini*) 1 juvenile on 13 September 1998 at Coontown Landing, Sardis Lake, *Lafayette*, **GK**(w), **JW**(p) [98-35; Class 1P]; 1 juvenile on 1 September 2006 near Okolona, *Chickasaw*, **WP**(w,p) [06-12; Class 1P]

**Sooty Tern** (*Onychoprion fuscata*) 1 adult on 10 June-3 August 2004 at Sand Island, *Jackson*, **JT**(w), **SD**(p), **GK**(w) [04-37; Class 1P]; 1 juvenile on 17 October 2006 near Maben, *Oktibbeha*, **TS**(w) [06-13; Class 3]

**Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) 1 adult on 31 May 1997 at Tallahatchie NWR, *Quitman*, **JW**(w), **AJ**(w) [97-58; Class 3]

**Inca Dove** (*Columbina inca*) 3 on 10 April and 15 May 2004 at Arcola, *Washington*, **SD**(p), **GK**(w) [04-22; Class 1P]; 14 on 10 February 2007 at Arcola, *Washington*, **SD**(w) [07-7; Class 3]

**Burrowing Owl** (*Athene cunicularia*) 1 on 22-24 February 2004 at Hollandale, *Washington*, **SD**(w,p), **GK**(w) [04-5; Class 1P]

**Green Violet-ear** (*Colibri thalassinus*) 1 on 3-5 October 1999 at Hall residence, Olive Branch, *DeSoto*, **TS**(w), **MD**(w), **RP**(w), **BS**(w) [99-29; Class 2]

**Broad-billed Hummingbird** (*Cynanthus latirostris*) 1 immature male on 3 November – 31 December 1998 at Wilder residence, Ocean Springs, *Jackson*, **BC**(p), **TS**(w) [98-36; Class 1P]

**Anna's Hummingbird** (*Calypte anna*) 1 female on 21 December 1994 to 15 January 1995 at Schultz residence, Bay St. Louis, *Hancock*, **JAT**(w), **TS**(w) [95-4; Class 2]; 1 female on 30 Nov-6 Dec 2004 at Ferguson residence, Morgan City, *Leflore*,



B&MS(p) [04-56; Class 1P]; 1 adult male on 19-25 November 2005 at Loftin residence, Starkville, *Oktibbeha*, B&MS(p) [05-41; Class 1P]; 1 female on 22 December 2005 at Bird residence, Bay St. Louis, *Hancock*, MM(p) [06-4; Class 1P]

**Calliope Hummingbird** (*Stellula calliope*) 1 immature male on 9 December 2002 at Moffitt residence, Madison, *Madison*, B&MS(p) [03-2; Class 1P]; 1 adult male on 9 December 2002 at Reid residence, Vicksburg, *Warren*, B&MS(p) [03-3; Class 1P]; 1 adult female on 8 January-18 March 2003 at Bennett residence, Starkville, *Oktibbeha*, B&MS(p) [03-4; Class 1P]; 1 immature male on 27 January 2003 at Miller residence, Jackson, *Hinds*, B&MS(p) [03-5; Class 1P]; 1 immature male on 27 December 2003 at Nichols residence, Canton, *Madison*, B&MS(p) [04-6; Class 1P]

**Allen's Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus sasin*) 1 adult female on 22 December 2005 at Bird residence, Bay St. Louis, *Hancock*, MM(p) [06-5; Class 1P]

**Willow Flycatcher** (*Empidonax traillii*) 2 males and 1 female on 28 June 1997 at Tallahatchie NWR, *Tallahatchie and Quitman*, **GK(w)** [97-57; Class 3]

**Cassin's Kingbird** (*Tyrannus vociferans*) 1 on 31 December 1996 at Robinson Road, *Oktibbeha*, **TS(w)** [97-42; Class 3]

**Black-whiskered Vireo** (*Vireo altiloquus*) 1 on 4 May 2005 at Clower-Thornton Park, *Harrison*, **SD(w)** [05-26; Class 3]

**Bell's Vireo** (*Vireo bellii*) 1 adult on 25 May-25 July 2007 Williams Farm, *Coahoma*, **PB(w,p)** [07-13; Class 1P]

**Cave Swallow** (*Petrochelidon fulva*) 2 on 28 February 2004 at Seaman Road Sewage Lagoon, *Jackson*, **GK(w)**, **SD(w,p)** [04-9; Class 1P]; 3 on 17 March 2005 at Waveland, *Hancock*, **NB(w)**

[05-22; Class 3]; 1 adult on 24 and 26 October 2007 at Waveland Lagoon, *Hancock*, **NB**(w) [07-19; Class 3]

**Sprague's Pipit** (*Anthus spragueii*) 1 on 21 November 2006 near Waveland, *Hancock*, **NB**(w) [06-15; Class 3]

**Connecticut Warbler** (*Oporornis agilis*) 1 on 12 September 2007 at Patterson residence, Columbus, *Lowndes*, **DP**(w) [07-20; Class 3]

**Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*) 1 adult male on 4-13 April 2005 at Warren residence, Oxford, *Lafayette*, **GK**(w,p) [05-23; Class 1P]

**Spotted Towhee** (*Pipilo maculatus*) 1 juvenile male on 24 December 2004 in *Bolivar*, **SD**(w,p) [05-16; Class 1P]

**Clay-colored Sparrow** (*Spizella pallida*) 1 on 25 September 2006 at Mississippi State University South Farm, *Oktibbeha*, **TS**(w) [06-21; Class 3]

**Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) 1 adult male on 1-4 May 1997 at Wicker residence, Greenwood, *Leflore*, **PB**(w), **KH**(w) [97-53; Class 2]; 1 adult male on 23 November 2002-2 April 2003 at McCrary residence, Gulfport, *Harrison*, **M&BM**(w,p), **SD**(w) [03-6; Class 1P]

**Lazuli Bunting** (*Passerina amoena*) 1 adult male on 22 April 2004 at Pine Flat Community, *Lafayette*, **TH**(w) [04-25; Class 3]

**Great-tailed Grackle** (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) 1 male on 10 April 2004 at Muscadine Farms WMA, *Washington*, **SD**(w) [04-33; Class 3]

**Bronzed Cowbird** (*Molothrus aeneus*) 1-3 on 27 March-May 2004 at Ansley, *Hancock*, **NB**(w), **SD**(p,w) [04-23; Class 1P]

**Red Crossbill** (*Loxia curvirostra*) 20+ adults on 1 December 1996 to 3 adults and 1 juvenile on 12-16 March 1997 at Pat's Bluff, Sardis Lake, *Panola*, **GK(w)**, **TS(w)** [97-44; Class 2]; pair of adults on 25 January 1997 at Wallace Creek Landing, Enid Lake, *Panola*, **GK(w)** [97-45; Class 3]; 2 males, 2 females, 3 juveniles on 9 May 1997 at Howorth residence, Oxford, *Lafayette*, **GK(w)** [97-56; Class 3]

**Lesser Goldfinch** (*Spinus psaltria*) 1 male (western race) on 24 December 2004-22 February 2005 at Wallace residence, Vicksburg, *Warren*, **SS(w)**, **TS(w)**, **GK(w,p)** [05-13; Class 1P]

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Circulation Records Accepted

**Pacific Loon** (*Gavia pacifica*) 2 on 21 December 1996 at Sardis Lake, *Panola*, **MD(w)** [97-31; Class 3]

**Jabiru** (*Jabiru mycteria*) 1 adult on 24-27 August 2007 at Myers Catfish Complex, *Sunflower*, **SJ(w,p)**, **PB(w)** [07-15; Class 1P]

**Red Phalarope** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) 1 on 1-3 October 2001 at Oktibbeha County Lake, *Oktibbeha*, **TS(w)** [01-22; Class 3]; 1 on 28 September 2002 at Oktibbeha County Lake, *Oktibbeha*, **TS(w)** [02-38; Class 3]

**Black-legged Kittiwake** (*Rissa tridactyla*) 1 1<sup>st</sup> winter bird on 22-29 December 1996 at Arkabutla Dam, *DeSoto and Tate*, **RP(w)** [97-41; Class 3]

**Willow Flycatcher** (*Empidonax traillii*) 1 singing adult on 31 May 1996 at Panola-Quitman Floodway Levee, *Tallahatchie*, **FB(w)** [97-22; Class 3]

**Cave Swallow** (*Petrochelidon fulva*) 2 on 23 October, 1 on 25 October 2007 at Columbus Lake, *Lowndes*, **TS(w)** [07-18; Class 3]

Not Accepted Records (Class 4) are either records not accepted based on questionable identification (Class 4-1) or records where identification is accepted but the origin is questionable (Class 4-0). Rarely is a record not accepted due to the bird being misidentified. Non acceptance may be due to poorly written documentation. Most of these reports are vague and incomplete leaving out pertinent details and not properly eliminating similar species. These records may be valid but the Committee has decided that the documentation submitted do not meet the standards required for inclusion in the historical database.

### **Not Accepted Records**

**White-tailed Kite** (*Elanus leucurus*) 1 on 6 October 2007 near Sturgis, *Oktibbeha*, [07-22; Class 4-1]

### **Contributors**

Philip Barbour, Ned Boyajian, Fred Broerman, Kevin Brunke (KBr), Bennett Carver, Marvin Davis, Charles Delmas, Stephen Dinsmore, Claire English, Ken Hackman, Rob Heflin, Tom Hoar, Allen Jolley, Seymour Johnson, Gene Knight, David Linden, Margaret and Bryant McCrary (M&BM), Bill McGehee, Don McKee, Mark Myers, Sharon Milligan, Dianne Patterson, Wayne Patterson, Rob Peeples, Wilma Pickett (WPi), Bob & Martha Sargent (B&MS), Terry Schiefer, Mary Stevens, Scott Somershoe, Jenny Thompson, Judy Touns (JAT), Jeff Wilson, and Nick Winstead.

### **Acknowledgments**

The MBRC would like to thank the contributors listed above for their time in furnishing written and photographic documentation for review. I would like to thank Committee Members Philip Barbour, Ned Boyajian, Stephen Dinsmore, and

Nick Winstead for providing the MBRC with their expert opinions concerning records reviewed during 2009.

**Review Species List.** These species were removed from this list in December 2004: Tundra Swan, Common Merganser, Glossy Ibis, White-faced Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Calliope Hummingbird, Western Meadowlark, Bronzed Cowbird, and Red Crossbill. All records of these removed species prior to 2005 will still be reviewed by the Committee. These species were removed from this list in February 2009: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Neotropic Cormorant, and Lesser Black-backed Gull. All records of these removed species prior to 2009 will still be reviewed by the Committee. The MBRC requests documentation, including details, descriptions, and photos of all records of the following species: Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, Cinnamon Teal, King Eider, Pacific Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Masked Booby, Great Cormorant, White-tailed Kite, Northern Goshawk, Harris's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Crested Caracara, Prairie Falcon, Yellow Rail, Black Rail, Limpkin, Mountain Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, Purple Sandpiper, Ruff, Red-necked Phalarope, Red Phalarope, Little Gull, Black-headed Gull, California Gull, Thayer's Gull, Slaty-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Brown Noddy, Sooty Tern, Bridled Tern, Roseate Tern, Arctic Tern, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, White-crowned Pigeon, Band-tailed Pigeon, Inca Dove, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Snowy Owl, Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Green Violet-ear, Broad-billed Hummingbird, White-eared Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Western Wood-Pewee, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Gray Kingbird, Bell's Vireo, Black-capped Vireo, Black-whiskered Vireo, Cave Swallow, Rock

Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Citrine Wagtail, Sprague's Pipit, Bachman's Warbler, Tropical Parula, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Painted Redstart, Western Tanager, Green-tailed Towhee, Spotted Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Harris's Sparrow, McCown's Longspur, Smith's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Snow Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Great-tailed Grackle, Shiny Cowbird, Bullock's Oriole, Lesser Goldfinch, or any species new to Mississippi. The Checklist of Mississippi Birds can be found at <http://www.mos.org.msstate.edu>.

**FIRST STATE NESTING RECORD FOR WHITE-FACED  
IBIS (*Plegadis chihi*) AND NESTING RANGE EXTENSION  
FOR TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*)  
INTO WASHINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

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Observations of dark ibises on Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge (Yazoo Refuge), Washington County, began for me when a single dark ibis used the Cox Ponds in May, 1997 and also in 1998. In 1999, three dark ibises used the ponds from mid-September through October. Numbers were still low in 2001 (two birds), but jumped to a high of 134 birds in 2003. Numbers varied over the next seven years and peaked again at 130 in 2009. Some of these birds may have been Glossy Ibises (*Plegadis falcinellus*), as this species was identified there from time to time.

On 20 May 2009, I took two of our refuge office staff members by boat to view the wading bird rookery in Swan Lake, Yazoo Refuge. This rookery has been active for over 20 years and consistently hosts a wide variety of nesting birds including Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), Great Egrets (*Ardea alba*), Little Blue Herons (*Egretta caerulea*), Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*), Tricolored Herons (*Egretta tricolor*), Black-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Green Herons (*Butorides virescens*), Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*), Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), and Anhingas (*Anhinga anhinga*). In an area near the south end of the rookery, I saw a few White-faced Ibises (*Plegadis chihi*) in a stand of buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis* L.) that was isolated from the main rookery. As we approached the area I saw an adult White-faced Ibis on a nest (Figure 1) no more than two feet above the water in a low buttonbush at the edge of the stand. The bird left the nest with little provocation, so we paddled over and quickly inspected the nest which had three eggs in a relatively deep cup. The nest

was constructed of twigs much like those of other wading birds in the colony, but there was herbaceous vegetation also (mostly alligator weed, *Alternanthera philoxeroides*). Some of the vegetation was still green, having been recently added to the nest. Judging from the number of ibises in breeding plumage, other ibis nests were probably located in the same stand of buttonbush, which covered about one-half acre of the 40-acre rookery. We moved on to finish our tour of the rookery.



Figure 1. A White-faced Ibis nest from which the adult had just flown shows a deep cup and herbaceous vegetation in addition to twigs used in nest construction. David Linden, 20 May 2009.

On 26 May, I contacted wildlife photographer Michael Kelly about getting some photos of the ibis nests, especially after the young were hatched. We agreed to go in at a later date.



On 30 May, I again went into the rookery, this time with my step-son, Darren Bryant, in conjunction with distributing flea beetles (*Agasiciles hygrophila*) for alligator weed suppression. I took digital photographs of another White-faced Ibis nest containing one egg (Figure 2). This one was about five feet up in a brushy cypress tree (*Taxodium distichum*). The adult was very shy and did not stay near the nest when we approached.



Figure 2. White-faced Ibises use herbaceous vegetation as well as twigs to construct their nests, while other wading birds in this rookery use only twigs. This nest was in a brushy cypress tree about five feet off the water. David Linden, 30 May 2009.

To check on nesting progress, I returned to the rookery with a friend, Clyde Nichols, on 19 June. As we paddled toward the site, a flight of 30 dark ibises flew over our heads toward the rookery. A number of these appeared to be non-breeding birds, as were others I had seen at the Cox Ponds nearby, where they often feed. At the time of this visit, the eggs had still not hatched, but

the presence of several other White-faced Ibis nests was confirmed.

A single White-Faced Ibis nest was also discovered while doing a rookery survey 19 June 2009 in Beargarden Lake (Cope Impoundment) on Yazoo Refuge. The nest was also in buttonbush in the company of nesting Little Blue Herons and Snowy Egrets.

On 24 June 2009 Mike Kelly and I boated into the Swan Lake rookery. Mike took several photos of adult White-faced Ibises, clearly showing the red eye, white face extending behind the eye, pink facial skin, and pinkish legs of the adult in breeding condition (Figure 3), but still we did not see any hatchlings in the nests we checked.

As we were leaving the rookery, I pointed out a Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) nest that I had previously discovered in a small cypress snag. This nest was south of the reported nesting range of the Tree Swallow, so I asked Mike to photograph it. Mike returned the following day to take better photos of both species. The original photo of Figure 4 shows a swallow with bluish-green iridescence on the head, dark blue iridescent back, and pure white under parts, bringing a beakful of insects to the nest. Figure 5 clearly shows two nestlings in the tree cavity.



Figure 3. An adult White-faced Ibis stands in the top of a buttonbush. Note the red eye with a band of white feathers behind it, pink skin between the eye and the beak, and pinkish legs. Michael A. Kelly/[www.wildexposures.net](http://www.wildexposures.net), 25 June 2009.



Figure 4. A Tree Swallow feeds its young a beakful of insects. Michael A. Kelly/www.wildexposures.net, 25 June 2009.



Figure 5. Two Tree Swallow nestlings await their next meal. Michael A. Kelly/[www.wildexposures.net](http://www.wildexposures.net), 25 June 2009.

We finally got some photos of young ibises (Figure 6) when wildlife photographer Jerry Litton visited the rookery on 24 July 2009.



Figure 6. A young White-faced Ibis stands in the top of a brushy cypress tree in the Swan Lake rookery. Jerry Litton, 24 July 2009.

In 2010, White-faced Ibises were still using the Swan Lake Rookery, where there were an estimated 30 nests. They also nested in buttonbush on the west side of Alligator Pond where four nests were observed while I was checking wood duck boxes in the lake. There were about a dozen Little Blue Heron nests in the same vicinity.

# THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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