

# THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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**Mississippi  
Ornithological  
Society**

# THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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## 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(s).

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**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. 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*.

**NOMENCLATURE** - Common names of bird species should be capitalized. Provide the scientific name (*italicized*) at the first mention of each species. Nomenclature should follow the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds, 7th edition (1998) and the 42nd (2000) through 54th (2013) supplements.

**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

*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-2013**

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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 [www.missbird.org](http://www.missbird.org). This is the seventh report of the MBRC and it covers Committee activities for 2013. Gene Knight is the Committee Chair and Philip Barbour, Ned Boyajian, Jake Walker, and Nick Winstead served as MBRC Members.

The MBRC reached a final decision on 36 records in 2013. Twenty-nine records of 23 species were accepted and seven records were not accepted. Six records were sent to the 2<sup>nd</sup> circulation process and six more records were sent to the 3<sup>rd</sup> circulation process. Twenty-seven observers submitted documentation to the MBRC on these records that were reviewed by the Committee in 2013.

The information presented after each species is as follows (if known): species name, number of individuals, age and/or sex, date(s) of occurrence, location, county (in italics), and initials of the observer(s). When known, the initials of those who discovered the bird are in boldface but only if the discoverer(s) submitted supporting documentation. After each observer's initials, the type of documentation is given in

parentheses. They are as follows: p = photograph; w = written documentation (includes full details about the record with complete description); rc = record card (includes only pertinent facts about the record). 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 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.

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

### Accepted Records, 1<sup>st</sup> Circulation

**Cory's Shearwater** (*Calonectris diomedea*) 1 picked up and later died, 2-9 September 2012 (Hurricane Isaac), Ocean Springs, Jackson, AS(w,p), NW(p) [012-26; Class 1P]

**Great Shearwater** (*Puffinus gravis*) 1 picked up in Marion on 30 August 2012 and released in Harrison on 1 September 2012 (Hurricane Isaac), WL(w,p), CB(w,p) [012-

21; Class 1P]; 1 picked up and later died, 2-17 September 2012 (Hurricane Isaac), Ocean Springs, *Jackson*, AS(w,p); NW(p) [012-23; Class 1P]; 1 picked up and later released, 4-7 September 2012 (Hurricane Isaac), Deer Island, *Harrison*, BP(w,p) [012-27; Class 1P]

**Audubon's Shearwater** (*Puffinus lherminieri*) 1 found dead, 2 September 2012 (Hurricane Isaac), east end of Horn Island, *Jackson*, LJ(w,p) [012-24; Class 1P]

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma castro*) 1 picked up and later died, 30 August 2012 (Hurricane Isaac), Vancleave, *Jackson*, AS(w,p), NW(p) [012-20; Class 1P]

**Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster*) 1 on 30 August 2013 on West Ship Island, *Harrison*, TSt(w,p), LG(w) [013-17; Class 1P]

**Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*) 1 juvenile on 1 December 2011 at Seaman Road SL, *Jackson*, NB(w) [012-1; Class 3]

**Ferruginous Hawk** (*Buteo regalis*) 1 on 22-24 November 2012 on Buck Island Road, *Tunica*, JW(p) [012-32; Class 1P]

**Purple Sandpiper** (*Calidris maritima*) 1 basic plumaged bird on 20 December 2011 at Bayou Caddy, *Hancock*, JWa(w,p) [012-2; Class 1P]

**Red Phalarope** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) 1 on 15-24 November 2012 at Kelly's Crossing, Arkabutla Lake, *Tate*, QG(w,p), GK(w,p), WP(w,p) [012-31; Class 1P]

**Razorbill** (*Alca torda*) 1 found dead on 27 April 2013 on West Ship Island, *Harrison*, **LG**(w,p) [013-14; Class 1P]

**Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*) 1 adult on 7 July 2012 on Moses Pier, Gulfport, *Harrison*, **CK**(w,p) [012-19; Class 1P]

**Bridled Tern** (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) 1 found alive but later died on 31 August 2012 at Graveline Beach, Ocean Springs, *Jackson*, **GK**(w) [012-22; Class 3]

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) 1 on 26 February-4 March 2012 near Kiln, *Hancock*, **SE**(w), **NB**(w), **SM**(p) [012-15; Class 1P ]; 1 on 25 October 2012 at Seaman Road SL, *Jackson*, **NB**(w), **SM**(p) [012-30; Class 1P]

**Bell's Vireo** (*Vireo bellii*) 1 on 27 April 2012 at Bass Landing, Mississippi River, *DeSoto*, **QG**(w,p) [012-17; Class 1P]

**Painted Redstart** (*Myioborus pictus*) 1 on 5 January-16 March 2012, Ocean Springs, *Jackson*, **NM**(w), **GK**(w), **QG**(w,p), **TS**(w), **LG**(p) [012-6; Class 1P]

**Spotted Towhee** (*Pipilo maculatus*) 1 adult male on 22 February-9 April 2012 at Robert Briscoe residence, Oxford, *Lafayette*, **RB**(p), **GK**(w), **TS**(w) [012-14; Class 1P]

**Clay-colored Sparrow** (*Spizella pallida*) 1 on 22 September 2012 at Hurricane Landing, Sardis Lake, *Lafayette*, **JH**(w,p) [012-28; Class 1P]; 1 on 8 October 2012 at Prairie Wildlife, *Clay*, **TS**(w) [012-33; Class 3]

**Saltmarsh Sparrow** (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) 2 adults on 20 December 2011 at Bayou Caddy, Hancock County Marshes Coastal Preserve, *Hancock*, **JWa**(w) [012-3; Class 3]

**Shiny Cowbird** (*Molothrus bonariensis*) 1 adult male on 31 December 2011-1 August 2012 at Heron Bay, Ansley, *Hancock*, **JWa**(w,p), **GK**(w), **TS**(w), **SM**(p) [012-4; Class 1P]

Records sent to 2<sup>nd</sup> Circulation from their 1<sup>st</sup> Circulation round have been voted on once and have received at least one “not accept” vote but not a unanimous “not accept” vote.

### **Records Sent to 2<sup>nd</sup> Circulation**

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck** (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) 6 on 28 September 2012 at Belzoni, *Humphreys* [012-29]

**Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*) 1 1<sup>st</sup> cycle bird on 9 January 2012 at Arkabutla Dam, *Tate* [012-8]

**American Tree Sparrow** (*Spizella arborea*) 1 on 9 February 2012 at Diamondhead, *Hancock* [012-12]

**Lark Bunting** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) 1 on 18 February 2012 at Hudsonville, *Marshall* [012-13]

**Bullock’s Oriole** (*Icterus bullockii*) 1 female on 6-14 January 2012 at Monique Ward residence, Ocean Springs, *Jackson* [012-7]



**Altamira Oriole** (*Icterus gularis*) 1 adult on 14 January 2012 on Horn Island, *Jackson* [012-9]

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

**Western Grebe** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) 1 on 22 November 2009 at Arkabutla Lake, *DeSoto/Tate*, **JW**(p) [09-27; Class 1P]

**Ferruginous Hawk** (*Buteo regalis*) 1 on 8 March 2009 near Rena Lara, *Coahoma*, **DS**(w) [09-12; Class 3]

**Black-headed Gull** (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) 1 adult in basic plumage on 6 January 2002 at Grenada Lake, *Grenada*, **SD**(w,p), **GK**(w), **MD**(w) [02-4; Class 1P] (accepted record, 1<sup>st</sup> Circulation as Class 3; record sent to 2<sup>nd</sup> Circulation after photograph submitted)

**Western Wood-Pewee** (*Contopus sordidulus*) 1 on 9 October 2011 at Roosevelt SP, *Scott*, **GK**(w), **JWa**(w) [011-63; Class 2]

**Willow Flycatcher** (*Empidonax traillii*) 1 singing male on 21 May 2008 at Nanih Waiya WMA, *Neshoba*, **JM**(w), **NW**(w) [08-11; Class 2]

**Bell's Vireo** (*Vireo bellii*) 1 on 21 August 2010 at St. Catherine Creek NWR, *Adams*, **JB**(w), **HJ**(w) [010-21; Class 2]

Records sent to 3<sup>rd</sup> Circulation are records that have gone through two circulations of voting procedure by the MBRC without being accepted or not accepted. These

records were presented to the Members at the Annual Meeting with a quorum of Members present. The voting procedure followed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circulation voting criteria; that is, a record is accepted if it receives no more than one not accept vote and is not accepted if it receives more than one not accept vote.

### **Records Sent to 3<sup>rd</sup> Circulation**

**Audubon's Shearwater** (*Puffinus lherminieri*) 1 on 3 September 2011 (Tropical Storm Lee) at Pascagoula, Jackson [011-26]

**Hudsonian Godwit** (*Limosa haemastica*) 1 on 8 October 2011 at Sky Lake, Humphreys [011-62]

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** (*Aegolius acadicus*) 1 on 16 January 2011 at Laurel, Jones [011-11]

**Bell's Vireo** (*Vireo bellii*) 1 heard and seen on 3 September 2007 near Indianola, Sunflower [07-21]

**Clay-colored Sparrow** (*Spizella pallida*) 1 on 4-5 October 2011 at Diamondhead, Hancock [011-61]

**Harris's Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia querula*) 1 on 8 February 2011 at Trim Cane WMA, Starkville, Oktibbeha [011-15]

Not Accepted Records (Class 4) are either records not accepted based on questionable identification (Class 4-I) or records where identification is accepted but the origin is questionable (Class 4-O). Rarely is a record not accepted due to the bird being misidentified. Non-acceptance is usually

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 does not meet the standards required for inclusion in the historical database.

### **Not Accepted Records**

**American Flamingo** (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) 2 on 2 September 2012 at Bay St. Louis, *Hancock* [012-25; Class 4-O]

**White-tailed Kite** (*Elanus leucurus*) 1 on 27 November 2011 near Stennis Space Center, *Hancock* [011-64 2<sup>nd</sup> Circulation; Class 4-I]

**Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*) 1 on 16 October 2010 near Chickasaw Village, Natchez Trace, *Lee* [010-25 2<sup>nd</sup> Circulation; Class 4-I]

**Thayer's Gull** (*Larus thayeri*) 1 1<sup>st</sup> cycle bird on 3 January and 21 February 2009 at Tunica County Landfill, *Tunica* [09-4 2<sup>nd</sup> Circulation; Class 4-I]

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** (*Aegolius acadicus*) 1 found dead on 10 December 2010 on New Hope Road, *Amite* [011-3 2<sup>nd</sup> Circulation; Class 4-I]

**Alder Flycatcher** (*Empidonax alnorum*) 1 heard on 12 September 2011 at Jeff Busby SP, *Choctaw* [011-60 2<sup>nd</sup> Circulation; Class 4-I]

**Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*) 1 adult male on 2 & 9 May 2011 at Woodland Hills Dr., Oxford, *Lafayette* [011-21 2<sup>nd</sup> Circulation; Class 4-I]

### **Contributors**

Crystie Baker, Ned Boyajian, Robert Briscoe, J. Burrows, Marvin Davis, Stephen Dinsmore, Sue Epps, Libby Graves, QB Gray, Jason Hoeksema, Lucy Jacobson, Heath Jordan, Chris King, Gene Knight, Will Lewis, Nancy Madden, Joe McGee, Sharon Milligan, Wayne Patterson, Billy Payne, Terence Schiefer, Alison Sharpe, Damien Simbeck, Theresa Stoia (TSt), Jake Walker (JWa), Jeff Wilson, 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 for providing the MBRC with their expert opinion concerning records reviewed during 2013.

### **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. Red-necked Phalarope was the only species removed from this list in February 2010. All records of this removed species prior to 2010 will still be reviewed by the Committee. These species were removed from this list in February 2011: Yellow Rail, Inca Dove, and Cave Swallow. All records of these removed species prior to 2011 will still be reviewed by the Committee. These species were added to this list in February 2011: Bewick's Wren Hooded Oriole, and Evening Grosbeak. These species were removed from this list in February 2012: Pacific Loon, Sooty Tern, Alder Flycatcher, and Willow Flycatcher. All records of these removed species prior to 2012 will still be reviewed by the Committee. These species were added to this list after being accepted by the MBRC during 2013: Cory's Shearwater, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Brown Booby, Razorbill, and Saltmarsh Sparrow.

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, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Cory's Shearwater, Great Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Jabiru, Masked Booby, Brown Booby, Great Cormorant, White-tailed Kite, Northern Goshawk, Harris's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Black Rail, Limpkin, Mountain Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, Purple Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Razorbill, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Black-headed Gull, Little Gull, California Gull, Thayer's Gull, Iceland Gull, Slaty-

backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Brown Noddy, Bridled Tern, Roseate Tern, Arctic Tern, White-crowned Pigeon, Band-tailed Pigeon, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Snowy Owl, Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Green Violetear, Anna's Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, White-eared Hummingbird, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Crested Caracara, Prairie Falcon, Western Wood-Pewee, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Gray Kingbird, Bell's Vireo, Black-capped Vireo, Black-whiskered Vireo, Rock Wren, Bewick's Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Citrine Wagtail, Sprague's Pipit, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Smith's Longspur, McCown's Longspur, Snow Bunting, Bachman's Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Tropical Parula, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Painted Redstart, Green-tailed Towhee, Spotted Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Great-tailed Grackle, Shiny Cowbird, Hooded Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, Lesser Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, and any species new to Mississippi.

The Mississippi Kite Editor would like to thank Joe McGee for his assistance in editing this article.



# THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

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