

Fire ants (*Solenopsis saevissima*) were also found feeding on two broods of dead bluebird nestlings in nesting boxes in 1979. One brood was on the same area as the chickadee nest while the other was at my home (Hurst 1980).

The possibility of predation on nestlings by ants may be a problem for persons interested in erecting nesting boxes. One method of control would be to prevent ants from climbing the post or pipe upon which the box is attached. Stikem (a registered trademark; Michel and Pelton Co., Emeryville, CA) is a sticky chemical which can be brushed on the post or pipe and which will trap any ant attempting to go up the post. Stikem lasts for months, is not removed by rainfall, and its holding ability is increased by the summer's heat.

#### Literature Cited

- Hurst, G.A., R.C. Warren, and M.Y. Grant. 1979. Nesting box trials on pine plantations. *Sialia* 1:47-51.
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- Smith, M.R. 1965. House-infesting ants of the eastern United States. Tech. Bull. No. 1326, USDA Agricul. Res. Serv., Washington, DC 105 pp.

#### A Noddy Tern from Horn Island, Mississippi

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On 5 July 1979 we discovered the dried carcass of a Noddy Tern (*Anous stolidus*) behind dunes and above high tide line on the Gulf side and approximately one kilometer east of the west tip of Horn Island. The specimen was collected and has been deposited in the ornithological collection at Mississippi State University. Many of the bird's feathers and the complete skeleton were intact. The following measurements (which could still be taken accurately) were used to help confirm identification: tarsus, 24 mm; tail length, 140 mm; length of exposed culmen, 44 mm. Ridgway (1919, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 50(8):547) gives the following ranges in values for these measurements: (1) tarsus - male, 23.5-25.5 mm; female, 23-24.5 mm; (2) tail - male, 139-148 mm; female 137.5-140 mm; (3) exposed culmen - male, 41-44.5 mm; female, 39.5-42 mm. Based on culmen size, we suspect that our specimen was a male.

Gandy and Turcotte (1970, Catalog of Mississippi Bird Records, State Wildlife Museum, Jackson) mention a specimen of this species in

the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science collected at Gulfport on 20 September 1957 by M. F. Baker. This record is annotated "probably blown in by Hurricane 'Carla.'" Records of this species from Louisiana (Lowery, Louisiana Birds, Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1974) and Alabama (Imhof, Alabama Birds, University of Alabama Press, University, 1976) all occurred following tropical storms or hurricanes in August or September.

The Noddy Tern is a tropical pelagic species that nests abundantly on the Dry Tortugas off the southern coast of Florida. Nest records for Louisiana have never been confirmed (Oberholser, The Bird Life of Louisiana, Bull. 28, Louisiana Dept. of Conservation, 1938).

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#### Lark Buntings in Mississippi

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Two observations of Lark Buntings (Calamospiza melanocorys) in south Mississippi during the winter of 1979-1980 prompt this report. The Lark Bunting has heretofore not been known from Mississippi though there have been records from both Alabama (Imhof, Alabama Birds, University of Alabama Press, University, 1976) and Louisiana (Lowery, Louisiana Birds, Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1974).

The first record was of a female or immature bird sighted by Gates on 13 October 1979 at Bellefontaine Beach in Jackson County. Gates observed the bird at about 6 meters through 7 X 35 binoculars at about 10:00 under excellent light conditions. While the observation was brief (less than a minute), the bird was seen in flight and on an exposed perch. The Bunting looked like a chunky sparrow with a large bill - similar to that of a Purple Finch (Carpodacus purpureus). Its head resembled that of a female Purple Finch, but the tail was longer and thinner than a finch's and was rounded rather than notched. White in the tail feathers was neither looked for nor noticed. The bird had an overall whitish appearance to it, being very white below with gray streaks on the breast. The back was brownish gray with pale streaking. The wings did not show a large white patch, but every feather in the wing seemed edged with white. The bird's legs were pale. Habitat where the sighting occurred was very sandy soil near the Mississippi Sound. There were scattered small shrubs, grass, cactus, pines, oaks, and vines. A few of the trees had recently been blown down by hurricane Fredric.

The second observation of a Lark Bunting was by Martha and David Hamilton and Terrie Fairley on 2 and 4 March 1980 at Petal, Forrest