

County, Mississippi. The weather was very cold and unusual numbers of birds were coming to the feeder. This bird was an adult male and was feeding on the ground with Purple Finches and Brown-headed Cowbirds (Molothrus ater). It was very aggressive. Its plumage was the distinctive black and white of an adult male, unlike that of any other species possible for the area.

A Yellow-billed Fish Crow

Robert Chapel

706 S. Race Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801

On 5 January 1980, I observed a Yellow-billed Fish Crow (Corvus ossifragus) at a dump near Whitehead Lake, Jackson County, Mississippi. The bird was identified by call. Both upper and lower mandibles were bright yellow - about the color of a breeding-plumaged Starling's (Sturnus vulgaris) bill. The unusual bill color did not seem to influence the behavior of the crow relative to other crows flocking with it.

Lohofener, Jackson, and Ramey (1979, Chat 43:30) recently reported a Common Crow (Corvus brachyrhynchus) with a similarly colored bill in South Carolina and commented on the significance of bill color in other corvids as a difference between closely related species.

Mountain Bluebird Near Grenada, Mississippi

Richard L. Whittington

4778 Eaglecrest Drive
Memphis, Tennessee 38117

While participating in the Grenada Christmas Count, 26 December 1978, and accompanied by Lula C. Coffey, I drove along Mississippi Highway 333, parallel to and below Grenada Dam. A moderate width of the area below the dam is pasture-like and along the road is a fence with concrete posts. After crossing over the fence to work a damp area, our attention was drawn to a male Mountain Bluebird (Sialia currucoides) because of its unusual blue coloring. While observing it we were once as close as ten meters. We returned to a meeting place and brought back Ben B. Coffey, Jr. and H. Alice Smith and later Marvin Davis to see it. On each occasion the bird indulged in a hovering flight.

This western species occasionally wanders eastward. In the pages