

length and bill length of the cormorant and on the basis of measurements, the bird would certainly seem to be an Olivaceous Cormorant. On the basis of field marks (shape of gular pouch, mainly), I would have some doubt." Mr. Imhof accepts the identification without qualification, and adds, "I have seen many Double-crested Cormorants in the summertime or breeding season in New York and Florida. Also, I have seen many thousands of Neotropical (Olivaceous) Cormorants in Panama. So, I think I am reasonably familiar with plumages of both species ... It certainly seems that climate is no limiting factor on its (Olivaceous Cormorant) spread along the northern Gulf Coast, and too there are no locally breeding Double-crests to challenge any spread of the species eastward. So the appearance of the Olivaceous Cormorant farther east than its usual range along the northern Gulf Coast seems to me a perfectly natural and expected occurrence."

We submit this manuscript with the strong belief that the bird is correctly identified as an Olivaceous Cormorant, representing the first Mississippi record and the easternmost occurrence of the species in the United States. Copies of the photographs, correspondence and other documents are on file at Mississippi State University and the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science.

Possible Predation by Ants on Nestlings in Nesting Boxes

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A study of Eastern Bluebird (Sialia sialis) production in nesting boxes on a four-year-old pine plantation is being conducted near Longview (Oktibbeha County) Mississippi (Hurst et al. 1979). The nesting boxes are on creosote posts and are checked once per week.

A Carolina Chickadee (Parus carolinensis) nest was begun in one of these nesting boxes in late March 1980. The nest contained five eggs on 3, 10 and 16 April and the eggs hatched on or about 17 April. On 23 April the nestlings were dead and were covered by little black ants (Monomorium minimum). The nestlings were intact but pieces of flesh were missing. The ants could have been feeding on nestlings that died from some unknown cause, but the worker ants of this species are predaceous and have been reported to kill and eat recently hatched bluebirds and kingfishers (Megaceryle alcyon) (Smith 1965). A little black ant colony occupied a nesting box at my home, five miles east of Starkville, and probably prevented the use of the nesting box by any species of bird.

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

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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