

## Iced Killdeer

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Following a snowfall of 4.4 cm (1.75 inches) on 14 January 1982, the temperature hovered right at freezing (31-33 F) creating "sticky" snow, which then froze as ice as the temperature cooled in the evening. On the morning 15 January we observed several Killdeer (Charadrius vociferus) (> 5) as they searched for food in bare areas. Each had snow/ice-coated legs and toes (Figure 1). This condition persisted for several hours, but the ice had melted by early afternoon. Although we could detect no restriction of movement or use of the legs or feet in these birds, we have noted one-legged Killdeer and others with apparently injured legs, either of which might result from such ice encrustation. Although we observed numerous other species at bird feeders and in open areas (e.g., Common Grackles, Quiscalus quiscula; Northern Cardinals, Cardinalis cardinalis; and European Starlings, Sturnus vulgaris), none accumulated snow or ice around their legs in the manner of the Killdeer.

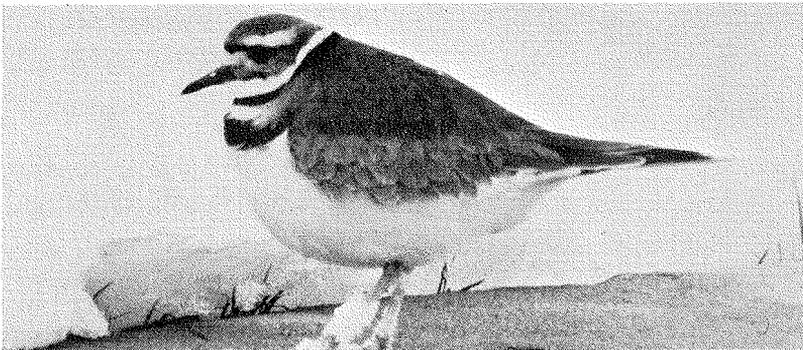


Figure 1. Iced Killdeer on the Mississippi State University campus.