

LAZULI BUNTING IN OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI

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A Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) was first sighted in our backyard on 18 March 1988. The bird was noted visiting a large feeder filled with mixed bird seed and crumbled cookies. The feeder was hanging from a tree branch about 8 m (25 ft) from the house. On subsequent days the bunting fed regularly in early morning (about 8:00 a.m.) and late afternoon (about 4:00 p.m.), staying for about 45 minutes at the feeder or in an adjacent flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*). On some days it did not appear. The last day it was seen was 28 March 1988. I came to the feeder at #:55, again from 4:15 to 4:30 when it was also observed by Gene and Shannon Knight, Benton Brewer, and Jean Allen Young. Gene Knight tentatively identified the plumage as being that of a first spring male. The bunting was last seen at the feeder at 6:00 p.m. on that day.

This is the first report for the Lazuli Bunting from Mississippi, although it has been found in nine other states east of the Mississippi River (DeSante and Pyle, 1986, Distributional Checklist of North American Birds, Artemesia Press, Lee Vining, CA). This record is similar to the sole record for Arkansas (James and Neal, 1986, Arkansas Birds -- Their Distribution and Abundance, Univ. Arkansas Press, Fayetteville, AR). A single Lazuli Bunting was identified at a feeder in Little Rock by several observers on 15 March 1980.