

**MISSISSIPPI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT-2015**

Gene C. Knight  
79 Hwy. 9 W.  
Oxford, MS 38655

The Mississippi Bird Records Committee (MBRC) of the Mississippi Ornithological Society was created to produce and keep a field checklist of the bird species that occur in Mississippi. The MBRC requests and reviews documentation on any record of a MBRC Review List species which can be found at the end of this report or at the MOS website, [www.missbird.org](http://www.missbird.org). This is the ninth report of the MBRC, and it covers Committee activities for 2015. Gene Knight is the Committee Chair and Philip Barbour, Ned Boyajian, Jason Hoeksema, and Nick Winstead serve as MBRC Members.

The MBRC reached a final decision on 20 records in 2015. Twenty records of 15 species were accepted. Six records were sent to the 2<sup>nd</sup> circulation process. Twenty-seven observers submitted documentation to the MBRC on these records that were reviewed by the Committee in 2015.

The information presented after each species is as follows (if known): species name, number of individuals, age and/or sex, date(s) of occurrence, location, county (in italics), and initials of the observer(s). When known, the initials of those who discovered the bird are in boldface but only if the discoverer(s) submitted supporting documentation. After each observer's initials, the type of documentation is given in parentheses. They are as follows: p = photograph; w = written documentation (includes full details about the record

with complete description); rc = record card (includes only pertinent facts about the record). The MBRC record number and Class of the record are given in brackets.

Accepted records fall into three classes. Class 1 records are documented by an accepted specimen, diagnostic photograph, or recording; Class 2 records are documented by accepted written documentation by two or more independent observers; Class 3 records are documented by accepted written documentation by a single observer. Where multiple observers are listed as having submitted written documentation for Class 3 records, only documentation from one of the observers was deemed acceptable by the Committee. Similarly, where photographs are listed as having been submitted for Class 2 or 3 records, the photograph was not considered diagnostic by the Committee, although the written documentation was acceptable.

### Accepted Records, 1<sup>st</sup> Circulation

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck** (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) 11 adults on 16 May 2014 near Waveland, *Hancock*, **NB**(w,p,) [014-14; Class 1P]

**Rough-legged Hawk** (*Buteo lagopus*) 1 immature pale morph on 23 January 2014 at Seaman Road Sewage Lagoons, *Jackson*, **NB**(w) [014-10; Class 3]; 1 immature pale morph on 15-16 February 2014 at Buck Island Road, *Tunica*, **DS**(w,p), **JH**(w,p), **GK**(w), **WP**(w,p) [014-9; Class 1P]; 1 dark morph on 15-24 November 2014 at Buck Island Road, *Tunica*, **WP**(w,p), **JR**(w,p) [014-22; Class 1P]

**Red Phalarope** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) 1 adult on 19 July 2014 at Davis Island, *Warren*, **LL**(w,p) [014-16; Class 1P]

**Thayer's Gull** (*Larus thayeri*) 2 1<sup>st</sup> cycle birds on 23 January 2014 at Tunica County Landfill, *Tunica*, **GK**(w) [014-6; Class 3]

**Glaucous Gull** (*Larus hyperboreus*) 1 1<sup>st</sup> cycle bird on 17-28 January 2014 at Tunica County Landfill, *Tunica*, **QG**(w,p), **JH**(w), **GK**(w) [014-4; Class 1P]

**Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*) 1 adult on 17 August 2014, Biloxi, *Harrison*, **TS**(w,p) [014-17; Class 1P]

**Snowy Owl** (*Bubo scandiacus*) 1 adult male on 10-13 February 2014 at Mahannah Wildlife Management Area, *Issaquena*, **LH**(p), **RH**(w,p), **NW**(w,p), **M&BS**(w,p), **TS**(w), **DK**(w,p) [014-8; Class 1P]

**Burrowing Owl** (*Athene cunicularia*) 1 seen and heard on 11-14 November 2014 at Buck Island Road, *Tunica*, **JR** (w), **JH**(w), **GK**(w) [014-21; Class 2]

**Say's Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*) 1 on 24-31 October 2014 at West Ship Island, *Harrison*, **LG**(p), **NB**(w) [014-19; Class 1P]

**Tropical Kingbird** (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) 1 on 16 December 2014-13 February 2015, Bay St. Louis, *Hancock*, **NM**(w), **NB**(w), **JH**(w,p), **JR**(w,p), **TS**(w), **CT**(recording) [015-1; Class 1P]

**Sage Thrasher** (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) 1 on 26-31 October 2014 at West Ship Island, *Harrison*, **NB(w)**, **LG(w,p)** [014-2; Class 1P]

**Sprague's Pipit** (*Anthus spragueii*) 1-2 on 29 December 2013-18 February 2014 at Holly Grove Road, *Panola*, **GK(w)**, **JH(w,p)**, **JR(w)**, **PB(w)**, **NW(w,p)**, **WP(w,p)**, **PW(w)**, **TS(w)**, **SS (p)**, **MT(p)** [014-2; Class 1P]; 1 on 28-29 January 2014 at Buck Island Road, *Tunica*, **JR(w,p)**, [014-7; Class 1P]; 1-2 on 24 November 2014-24 February 2015 at Holly Grove Road, *Panola*, **JH(w,p)**, **JR(w)** [014-23; Class 1P]

**American Tree Sparrow** (*Spizelloides arborea*) 1 on 23 January 2011 at Strawberry Plains Audubon Center, Holly Springs, *Marshall*, **CH(w,p)** [011-70; Class 1P]

**Lazuli Bunting** (*Passerina amoena*) 1 male on 25 March-1 April 2014 at Scott and Robin Engle residence, Gulfport, *Harrison*, **RE(w,p)** [014-12; Class 1P]

**Bullock's Oriole** (*Icterus bullockii*) 1 on 14 January-18 February 2014 at Mary and Parker Stevens residence, Vicksburg, *Warren*, **CK(w)**, **MS(p)**, **M&BS(w,p)** [014-3; Class 1P]; 1 male on 17 January-6 April 2014 at Monique Ward residence, Ocean Springs, *Jackson*, **MW(w,p)**, **NB(w)**, **WL(w,p)**, **ML(w)**, **GK(w)**, **JH(w)**, **TS(w)** [014-5; Class 1P]

Records sent to 2<sup>nd</sup> Circulation from their 1<sup>st</sup> Circulation round have been voted on once and have received at least one “not accept” vote but not a unanimous “not accept” vote.

## Records Sent to 2<sup>nd</sup> Circulation

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck** (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) 1 shot on 24 December 2013 at Enid Lake, *Yalobusha* [014-11]

**Black Rail** (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) 1 seen on 29 November 2014 at Lakeshore Ponds, *Hancock* [014-24]

**Pomarine Jaeger** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) 1 found injured on 4 June and died on 6 June 2014, *Harrison* [014-15]

**Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*) 1 1<sup>st</sup> cycle bird on 18 December 2013, *Tunica* [014-1]

**Bewick's Wren** (*Thryomanes bewickii*) 1 seen on 13 May 2014, Oxford, *Lafayette* [014-15]; 1 seen 20 September 2014, *Leflore* [014-18]

## Contributors

Philip Barbour, Ned Boyajian, Robin Engle, Libby Graves, QB Gray, Curt Hart, Lee Harvey, Rob Heflin, Jason Hoeksema, Chris King, David King, Gene Knight, Mark LaSalle, Will Lewis, Layne Logue, Nancy Madden, Wayne Patterson, JR Rigby, Terry Schiefer, Scott Somershoe, Mary Stevens, Mary and Bill Stripling, Dana Swan, Claire Thomas, Mike Todd, Monique Ward, Pullen Watkins, and Nick Winstead.

## **Acknowledgments**

The MBRC would like to thank the contributors listed above for their time in furnishing written and photographic documentation for review. I would like to thank Committee Members for providing the MBRC with their expert opinion concerning records reviewed during 2015.

## **Review Species List**

The following species were removed from this list in December 2004, but records prior to 2005 will still be reviewed by the Committee: Tundra Swan, Common Merganser, Glossy Ibis, White-faced Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Calliope Hummingbird, Western Meadowlark, Bronzed Cowbird, and Red Crossbill. These species were removed from this list in February 2009, but records prior to 2009 will still be reviewed by the Committee: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Neotropic Cormorant, and Lesser Black-backed Gull. Red-necked Phalarope was the only species removed from this list in February 2010, but records prior to 2010 will still be reviewed by the Committee. These species were removed from this list in February 2011, but records prior to 2011 will still be reviewed by the Committee: Yellow Rail, Inca Dove, and Cave Swallow. These species were removed from this list in February 2012, but records prior to 2012 will still be reviewed by the Committee: Pacific Loon and Sooty Tern. These species were removed from this list in January 2013, but records prior to 2013 will still be reviewed by the Committee: Alder Flycatcher and Willow Flycatcher. These species were added to the list in January 2015: Golden Eagle, Tropical Kingbird, Sage Thrasher, Mourning Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Red Crossbill.

The MBRC requests documentation, including details, descriptions, and photographs of all records of the following species: Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, Cinnamon Teal, King Eider, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Cory's Shearwater, Great Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Jabiru, Masked Booby, Brown Booby, Great Cormorant, White-tailed Kite, Northern Goshawk, Harris's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Black Rail, Limpkin, Mountain Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, Purple Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Razorbill, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Black-headed Gull, Little Gull, California Gull, Thayer's Gull, Iceland Gull, Slaty-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Brown Noddy, Bridled Tern, Roseate Tern, Arctic Tern, White-crowned Pigeon, Band-tailed Pigeon, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Snowy Owl, Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Green Violetear, Anna's Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, White-eared Hummingbird, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Crested Caracara, Prairie Falcon, Western Wood-Pewee, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Cassin's Kingbird, Gray Kingbird, Bell's Vireo, Black-capped Vireo, Black-whiskered Vireo, Rock Wren, Bewick's Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Sage Thrasher, Citrine Wagtail, Sprague's Pipit, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Smith's Longspur, McCown's Longspur, Snow Bunting, Bachman's Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Tropical Parula, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler,

Painted Redstart, Green-tailed Towhee, Spotted Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Great-tailed Grackle, Shiny Cowbird, Hooded Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, Red Crossbill, Lesser Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, and any species new to Mississippi.