



Figure 2. Laughing Gull with Least Tern fledgling, Biloxi, Mississippi, 22 June 2017.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH EATING ALGAE

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On 24 January 2017, I was birding on the grounds of the Pascagoula River Audubon Center at 5107 Arthur St., Moss Point, Mississippi. There were many American Goldfinches (*Spinus tristis*) on the grounds and feeding at the seed feeders. I approached the upper portion of an inlet of Rhodes Bayou where the water was still, and growths of algae were at the surface. I observed an American Goldfinch, possibly an adult female, land on a limb that had fallen into the water within a patch of algae. For ~5 min, I watched the bird move along the limb, probe the algal patch, and withdraw and ingest strands of algae. The patch of algae was green, but each strand the bird pulled out appeared brown. I do not know the type of algae that was being consumed. American Goldfinches

are mainly granivorous, but have been observed feeding on algae elsewhere (Dorsey 1963, DiGioia 1974, Kilham 1980).

LITERATURE CITED

- DiGioia, H.G. 1974. American Goldfinches eating algae. *The Oriole* 39:47.
- Dorsey, G.A. 1963. Notes on the food of the goldfinch. *The Oriole* 28:72-73.
- Kilham, L. 1980. Goldfinches feeding on filamentous algae. *The Oriole* 45:48.