

**MISSISSIPPI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT-2017**

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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. This is the 11th report of the MBRC, and it covers Committee activities for 2017. Gene Knight is the Committee Chair and Philip Barbour, Ned Boyajian, Jason Hoeksema, and Nick Winstead served as MBRC Members.

The MBRC reached a final decision on 27 records in 2017. Twenty-three records of 17 species were accepted. Two records were sent to the 2nd circulation process. Twenty-seven observers submitted documentation to the MBRC on these records that were reviewed by the Committee in 2017.

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; r = recording; rc = record card (includes only pertinent facts about the record); w = written documentation (includes full details about the record with complete description). 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.

Other abbreviations used in this report are as follows: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, SL = Sewage Lagoon, and WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

ACCEPTED RECORDS, 1ST CIRCULATION

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) 1 adult on 11 August 2016 east of Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, *Harrison*, **HC**(w,p) [016-18; Class 1P]

Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) 1 carcass found on 3 August 2016 on Deer Island, Biloxi, *Harrison*, **MF**(w), **LD**(p) [016-17; Class 1P]

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) 1 adult female on 2-16 October 2016 at Lake Chewalla, *Marshall*, **WE**(w,p), **HM**(w,p), **JR**(w), **JH**(w), **GK**(rc) [016-20; Class 1P]

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) 1 on 2-4 December 2015 at Noxubee NWR, *Noxubee*, **TS**(w) [016-1; Class 3]

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) 1 on 27-29 December 2015 near Cruger, *Leflore*, **HM**(w,p), **PB**(w,rc) [016-3; Class 1P]; 1 on 13-14 February and 4 March 2016 near Okolona, *Chickasaw*, **WP**(w,p), **GK**(rc) [016-7; Class 1P]; 1 on 4-6 October 2016 on West Ship Island, *Harrison*, **WM**(w,p), **GK**(rc) [016-21; Class 1P]

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) 1 on 31 December 2015-28 February 2016 at Bay St. Louis, *Hancock*, **HW**(w,p,r), **NB**(w), **JR**(w,r), m.ob. [016-4; Class 1R]

Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*) 1 on 13 January-20 April 2016 on Singing River Island, *Jackson*, **BJ**(w,p), **JR**(w,p,r), **NB**(w), **HC**(w), **GK**(rc) [016-5; Class 1R]; 1 on 30 November 2016-3 January 2017 near Money, *Leflore*, **JR**(w,p,r), **JH**(w), **GK**(rc) [016-23; Class 1R]

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) 2 on 23-24 April 2016 on West Ship Island, *Harrison*, **AB**(w,p), **GO**(w), **NB**(w) [016-12; Class 1P]

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) 1 on 2 October 2016 at Old River WMA, *Pearl River*, **NB**(w) [016-19; Class 3]

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) 1 on 20 February 2016 at Sardis Waterfowl WMA, *Lafayette*, **JR**(w,p,r) [016-8; Class 1P]

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizelloides arborea*) 1 on 3 December 2015 near Coldwater River, *Marshall*, **RH**(w) [016-2; Class 3]

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) 1 on 16-19 January 2016 at Pascagoula River Audubon Center, *Jackson*, **GC**(p), **GM**(w), **SM**(p) [016-6; Class 1P]

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) 1 pair on 1 May 2016 at Singing River Island, *Jackson*, **BJ**(w,p) [016-13; Class 1P]

Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*) 1 adult male on 4 May 2016 at Section Line Road, *Lowndes*, **PM**(w), **TS**(rc) [016-14; Class 3]; 1 adult male on 16 May 2016 at the Plymouth Bluff Environmental Center, *Lowndes*, **JO**(w), **TS**(rc) [016-15; Class 3]

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) 1 adult male on 2 November 2016 at Pascagoula River Audubon Center, *Jackson*, **PBI**(w,p) [016-22; Class 1P]

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) 1 female on 1 March 2016 at Picayune, *Pearl River*, **RP**(w,p) [016-9; Class 1P]

Records sent to 2nd Circulation from their 1st 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 2ND CIRCULATION

Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) 1 on 6 March 2016 at Bay Springs Lake, *Tishomingo* [016-10]

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) 1 expired bird picked up on a barge on 8 Mar 2016, Gulfport, *Harrison* [016-11]

ACCEPTED RECORDS, 2ND CIRCULATION

Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) 1 specimen on 31 August 2012 at Graveline Beach, *Jackson*, GK(w), NW(p) [012-22; Class 1S]

Records sent to 3rd Circulation are records that have gone through two circulations of voting procedure by the MBRC without being accepted or not accepted. These records were presented to the Members at the Annual Meeting with a quorum of Members present. The voting procedure followed the 2nd Circulation voting criteria; that is, a record is accepted if it receives no more than one not accept vote and is not accepted if it receives more than one not accept vote.

ACCEPTED RECORDS, 3RD CIRCULATION

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) 1 seen and heard on 12 September 2015 at St. Catherine Creek NWR, *Adams*, LG(w), HC(w,p,r) [015-15; Class 1-R]

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) 1 on 13 May 2014 at Oxford, *Lafayette*, JH(w) [014-13; Class 3]

Not Accepted Records (Class 4) are either records not accepted based on questionable identification (Class 4-I) or records where identification is accepted but the origin is questionable (Class 4-O). Rarely is a record not accepted due to the bird being misidentified. Non-acceptance is usually due to poorly written documentation. Most of these reports are vague and incomplete, leaving out pertinent details and not properly eliminating similar species. These records may be valid, but the Committee has

decided that the documentation submitted does not meet the standards required for inclusion in the historical database.

NOT ACCEPTED RECORDS

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) 1 1st cycle bird on 13-20 February 1993 at Sullivan Road Catfish Complex, *Tunica* [93-24; Class 4-I]

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) 1 on 27 July 2016 off Hwy. 67, Biloxi, *Harrison* [016-16; Class 4-I]

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) 1 on 11 December 2014 at Seaman Road SL, *Jackson* [015-2; Class 4-I]

Tropical Parula (*Setophaga pitiayumi*) 1 male on 13 Sep. 1990 at Logtown, *Hancock* [90-29; Class 4-I]

CONTRIBUTORS

Philip Barbour, Andy Bell, Peter Blank (PBI), Ned Boyajian, Gary Chapin, Holly Cox, Lauren Deets, Will Eubanks, Molly Folkerts, Libby Graves, Rob Harbin, Jason Hoeksema, Brian Johnston, Gene Knight, Paul Mack, Warren Martz, Sharon Milligan, Hal Mitchell, Gerry Morgan, Jimmy Osborne, Glenn Ousset, Wayne Patterson, Rhonda Plitt, JR Rigby, Terence Schiefer, Harold Weber, and Nick Winstead.

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documentation for review. I would like to thank Committee Members for providing the MBRC with their expert opinion concerning records reviewed during 2017.

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, Calliope Hummingbird, Glossy Ibis, White-faced Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Red Crossbill, Western Meadowlark, and Bronzed Cowbird. 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, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Neotropic Cormorant. 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: Inca Dove, Yellow Rail, 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: Sooty Tern and Pacific Loon. 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. No species were removed from this list during 2014-2016. These species were removed from this list in 2017: Thayer's Gull, Slaty-backed Gull, and Tropical Parula. Thayer's Gull is now considered a subspecies of Iceland Gull which is on the Review Species list. The lone Slaty-backed Gull and Tropical Parula records for Mississippi were deemed misidentifications; any future observations of these two species would be reviewed by the Committee as new species to Mississippi. These species were added to this list during 2017: American Flamingo, Whooping

Crane, Monk Parakeet, Couch's Kingbird, Scaly-breasted Munia, and Altamira Oriole. Couch's Kingbird was accepted by the MBRC during 2017, but records of these other species were deemed to have questionable origin. Their identifications were deemed accurate, therefore they were added to the Review Species list to encourage additional documentation across the state.

The MBRC requests documentation, including details, descriptions, and photographs of all records of the following species: Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Cinnamon Teal, Eurasian Wigeon, King Eider, American Flamingo, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, White-crowned Pigeon, Band-tailed Pigeon, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Lesser Nighthawk, Mexican Violetear, Anna's Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, White-eared Hummingbird, Black Rail, Limpkin, Whooping Crane, 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, Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Brown Noddy, Bridled Tern, Roseate Tern, Arctic Tern, Cory's Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Great 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, Snowy Owl, Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Crested Caracara, Prairie Falcon, Monk Parakeet, Western Wood-Pewee, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Couch's Kingbird, Cassin's Kingbird, Gray Kingbird, Black-capped Vireo, Bell's Vireo, Black-whiskered Vireo, Rock Wren, Bewick's Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Sage Thrasher, Scaly-

breasted Munia, Citrine Wagtail, Sprague's Pipit, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, Lesser Goldfinch, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Smith's Longspur, McCown's Longspur, Snow Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Spotted Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Hooded Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, Altamira Oriole, Shiny Cowbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Bachman's Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Painted Redstart, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, and any species new to Mississippi.