

playback, but stayed hidden in the vegetation at the edge of the road. He gradually walked back to the other birds during the Common Gallinule playback. Interestingly, both adults responded again side-by-side during the Purple Gallinule playback, then the male mounted the female and copulated in front of the chicks. I assume this was an effort to reaffirm the pair bond, though I was surprised to see it occur in response to the Purple Gallinule playback.

### MISSISSIPPI KITE FEEDING ON A RED BAT

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I have had a pair of Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) that have nested and raised a pair of young for the past two years on our property in Marshall County, Mississippi, just south of the Coldwater River. I spend a lot of mornings drinking my first cup of coffee on our porch, and watching them hunt in the fields. There are several large oaks (*Quercus* spp.) on our property that have been resting spots for them when hunting and training the fledglings.

They normally pluck dragonflies out of the air and eat them in flight. Often, they would fly to one specific oak they seemed to prefer and eat a dragonfly or grasshopper. On the morning of 28 April 2018, I saw one fly into the oak with something larger than normal that I did not recognize. I grabbed my camera, and to my surprise found that it had a red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*). I shot a few photographs (Figure 1), and then backed off to let it enjoy its prize. We regularly see red bats, and have even been seeing them recently on warmer days. I have read that Mississippi Kites will take bats, but I have never seen one with a bat previously.



**Figure 1.** Mississippi Kite with red bat, 28 April 2018, Marshall County, Mississippi.