

and Kathy Esher for helping to collect the data presented here. We all owe a special thanks to the Gulf Coast Audubon Society and the Harrison County Board of Supervisors for the foresight in setting aside the nesting areas for the Least Terns.

Literature Cited

- Buckley, P. A. and F. G. Buckley. 1970. Color variation in the soft parts and down of Royal Tern chicks. *Auk* 87:1-13.
- Gandy, B. E. and W. H. Turcotte. 1970. Catalog of Mississippi bird records. State Wildlife Museum, Jackson, Ms.
- Hardy, J. W. 1957. The Least Tern in the Mississippi valley. *Publ. Mus. Mich. State Univ. Biol. Ser.* 1(1):1-60.
- Jackson, J. A. 1973. An observation of a Least Tern laying an egg. *Mississippi Kite* 3:4-5.
- Soots, R. F., Jr. and J. F. Parnell. 1975. Ecological succession of breeding birds in relation to plant succession on dredge islands in North Carolina estuaries. *Univ. North Carolina Sea Grant Publ.*, UNC-SG-75-27.
- Tomkins, I. R. 1959. Life history notes on the Least Tern. *Wilson Bull.* 71:313-322.
- Toups, J. 1976. A brief history of efforts to protect the Least Tern on the Mississippi coast. *Mississippi Kite* 6:22-24.

Avocets in Sharkey County

William H. Turcotte
Route 7, Box 257
Jackson, Mississippi 39209

A flock of 19 American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) was observed October 20, 1976 on a catfish pond near Blanton, Mississippi, Sharkey County, by Robert G. Lilly, John T. Kerr and Henry Bobbs, Jr. This sighting was described by John T. Kerr after the party observing them confirmed identification by the contrasting black and white on the wings and back and the upturned bill. The birds were observed carefully at fairly close range while on the ground and in flight. They returned to the pond after being flushed and making short flights. On the following day the birds had left the area.