

The count highlight was a Green-tailed Towhee reported from Bellefontaine Point by John Izral and Steve Peterson; as this species would be new for the state, we hope adequate details were recorded. Three unusual warblers were reported: Prothonotary (John Steen party), Yellow (Warren Garrott) and Magnolia (Cile Waite, Jean Freeman). Other noteworthy species were Anhinga, Osprey, Pectoral Sandpiper, American Avocet, Rough-winged and Barn Swallows, and a Dickcissel. Larry Gates also reported a Sprague's Pipit during count week.

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Birds Around the State - Winter 1976-77

Compiled by Jerome A. Jackson and Wayne C. Weber

The following is a summary of noteworthy bird sightings in Mississippi (and some in immediately adjacent areas) by MOS members and friends for the period 1 December 1976 to 28 February 1977. These sightings include records of unusual species in the state, unusual numbers, and arrival and departure dates. A key to observers' names follows the list. Nearly all localities mentioned have been previously identified in the Mississippi Kite (6(1):19 and 6(2):54).

Note - The following abbreviations are used below: m = male; f = female; imm = immature; CBC = Christmas Bird Count.

- EARED GREBE -- 1, 22 Dec., Sardis L. CBC, WMD; 3, 31 Dec., Hattiesburg sewage ponds (Hattiesburg CBC), LG, JI.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- 1, 18 Dec., Noxubee CBC, JAJ (lowest CBC count ever; no more than 1 seen at any time during winter).
- ANHINGA -- 1, 18 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, LG.
- WHISTLING SWAN -- 1 imm., about 16 Dec. - 22 Jan., Noxubee NWR JAJ, JAS.
- CANADA GOOSE -- 1200, first half of Feb., Noxubee NWR, JAJ; 600, 27 Feb., Yazoo NWR, GEA & GA.
- WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- 1, 19 Dec., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 11, 2 Jan., Yazoo NWR (Washington Co. CBC).
- MALLARD -- 118,478, 2 Jan., Washington Co. CBC (nearly all on Yazoo NWR).
- BLACK DUCK -- 63, 22 Dec., Sardis L. CBC; 50 plus, 21 Jan., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW; 50, 23 Jan., Sardis L., WMD, BBC & LC, WCW et al.
- MOTTLED DUCK -- 2, 29 Dec., Hancock Co. CBC.
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL -- 1, 31 Dec., Hattiesburg sewage ponds (Hattiesburg CBC), LG, JI; 2, 27 Feb. (early migrants?), 10 mi. s. of Greenville, GEA & GA.
- AMERICAN WIGEON -- 2252, 2 Jan., Washington Co. CBC.
- CANVASBACK -- 348, 1 Jan., Jackson CBC; 1600 (in one raft), 2 Jan., L. Washington (Washington Co. CBC); 150, 22 Jan., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 400, 23 Jan., Sardis L., WMD, BBC & LC, WCW et al.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE -- 7, 27 Dec., Grenada CBC (new to count); 18 (10 m, 8 f), 23 Jan., Sardis L., WMD, BBC & LC, WCW et al.

- BUFFLEHEAD -- 54, 18 Dec., Noxubee CBC, JAJ, WCW et al.  
 OLDSQUAW -- 1, 1 Jan., Jackson CBC; 4, 30 Jan., Biloxi, WCW.  
 SURF SCOTER -- 1 f, early Nov. to 22 Dec., Sardis L., WMD (recognizable photos obtained).  
 BLACK SCOTER -- 3 f, early Nov. to 22 Dec., Sardis L., WMD (recognizable photos obtained).  
 RUDDY DUCK -- 2075, 1 Jan., Jackson CBC.  
 HOODED MERGANSER -- 61, 19 Dec., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 190, 22 Dec., Sardis L. CBC; 150, 23 Jan., Sardis L., WMD, BBC & LC, WCW et al.  
 COMMON MERGANSER -- 5, (4 m, 1 f), 21 Jan., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW; 6, (3 m, 3 f), 23 Jan., Sardis L., WCW.  
 RED-BREASTED MERGANSER -- 1, 31 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC; 1, 1 Jan., Jackson CBC.  
 ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK -- 1 (light phase), 15 Jan., Sardis L. State Waterfowl Refuge, WMD.  
 GOLDEN EAGLE -- 1 imm., 18 Dec. to 29 Jan., Noxubee NWR, JAJ, JAS, WC, MC et al.  
 BALD EAGLE -- 1 imm., late Nov. - 29 Jan., Noxubee NWR, JAJ, WC, MC, et al.; 12, 1 Jan., Jackson CBC; 1 imm., 12 Jan., Kyle St. Park (Sardis L., WMD).  
 OSPREY -- 1, 18 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, LG, WG; 1, 29 Dec., Hancock Co. CBC; 1, 1 Jan., Jackson CBC.  
 PEREGRINE FALCON -- 1, 31 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC, OL.  
 WILD TURKEY -- 54 (one flock), 2 Jan., Yazoo NWR (Washington Co. CBC) JW; Flocks of up to 35, Feb., Archer I., Ark., NH.  
 SANDHILL CRANE -- (Number?), 18 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, LG, WG.  
 KING RAIL -- 1, 1 Jan., Jackson CBC.  
 VIRGINIA RAIL -- 2, 31 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC, LG, JI.  
 SNOWY PLOVER -- 2, 31 Dec., Hancock Co. CBC.  
 AMERICAN WOODCOCK -- 1, 11 Feb. (first heard displaying), Starkville, JAJ.  
 SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- 1, 28-29 Dec., Archer I., Ark., NH; 2, 31 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC, LG, JI.  
 GREATER YELLOWLEGS -- 10, 1 Dec., 10 mi. s. of Greenville, GEA & GA; 2, 4 Dec., 10 mi. s. of Greenville, GEA & GA; 2, 26 Dec., L. Jackson (Washington Co.), GEA & GA.  
 PECTORAL SANDPIPER -- (Number?) 18 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, JT.  
 LEAST SANDPIPER -- 150, 1 Dec. to 28 Dec., 10 mi. s. of Greenville, GEA & GA; 2, 18 Dec., Noxubee CBC, WCW (new to count); 2, 2 Jan., Washington Co. CBC.  
 DUNLIN -- 25, 1 Dec. to 28 Dec., 10 mi. s. of Greenville, GEA & GA.  
 AMERICAN AVOCET -- (Number?) 18 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, LG et al.  
 FRANKLIN'S GULL -- 1, 31 Dec., Hattiesburg sewage ponds (Hattiesburg CBC), LG, JI.  
 BONAPARTE'S GULL -- 3, 5 Dec., Oktibbeha Co. L., WCW; 1, 18 Dec., Noxubee CBC, JAJ et al. (new to count).  
 MOURNING DOVE -- (First heard calling) 27 Feb., Archer I., Ark., NH.  
 GROUND DOVE -- 2, 31 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC, NP.  
 BARRED OWL -- 19, 1 Jan., Jackson CBC.  
 RED-HEADED WOODPECKER -- 53, 18 Dec., Noxubee CBC, JAJ et al.  
 RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER -- 19, 18 Dec., Noxubee CBC, JAJ et al.; 2, 29 Dec., Hancock Co. CBC, (very localized on Gulf Coast).

- EASTERN PHOEBE -- 1, 27 Feb., Archer I., Ark., NH (first seen on island in 3 years).
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- 3 m, 26 Dec. (2 present since 27 Nov.), L. Jackson (Washington Co.), GEA & GA; 1 m, 31 Dec., Paul B. Johnson St. Park (Hattiesburg CBC), CW, JF, NP.
- ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- (Number?), 18 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, JT.
- BARN SWALLOW -- (Number?), 18 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC.
- PURPLE MARTIN -- 4, 1 Feb., Biloxi, JT (arrival); 2, 19 Feb., Jackson, WHT; 2 m, 22 Feb., Greenville, GEA & GA (arrival).
- CAROLINA CHICKADEE -- (First heard singing), 16 Feb., Archer I., Ark., NH.
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 2, 29 Dec., Hancock Co. CBC.
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 1, 19 Jan., Greenville, GEA & GA (rare in Delta).
- HOUSE WREN -- 1, 2 Jan., Washington Co. CBC; 1, 5 Jan., Kosciusko sewage lagoon, JAS.
- BEWICK'S WREN -- 1, 22 Dec., Sardis L. CBC; 2, 27 Dec., Grenada L. CBC; 2, 31 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC, LG, JI; 1, 12 Feb., near Kosciusko, JAS.
- MOCKINGBIRD -- 1, fledgling just out of nest, 25 Feb., Columbus, GEA & GA.
- AMERICAN ROBIN -- Flocks eating dogwood berries, 3 Dec., L. Mary Crawford (Lawrence Co.), CB.
- HERMIT THRUSH -- 28, 1 Jan., Jackson CBC.
- EASTERN BLUEBIRD -- 61, 31 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC, LG et al.; Scarce all winter in Greenville area, GEA & GA, NH.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 1, 31 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC, LG, JI.
- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- None seen after 30 Jan., Greenville & vicinity, GEA & GA; Sharp decline between Jan. and Feb. on census plot near Larue, Jackson Co. (4 birds/count in Jan., 1 bird/count in Feb.), WCW.
- WATER PIPIT -- 1, 31 Jan., feeding on bare spot in melting snow, Monticello, CB; 10, 31 Jan., feeding on roadside in melting snow, Hwy. 1-59 S of Meridian, WCW.
- SPRAGUE'S PIPIT -- 1, about 18 Dec., Jackson Co., LG.
- CEDAR WAXWING -- First flock of winter seen, 18 Jan., Monticello, CB; 250, mid-Feb., Starkville, BW; 100, 20 Feb., Davis Bayou, Ocean Springs, WCW; 300, 22 Feb., Greenville, GEA & GA.
- STARLING -- 102,093, 2 Jan., Washington Co. CBC, GEA et al.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO -- 3, 18 Dec., Dorman L. and vicinity (Noxubee CBC), WC.
- SOLITARY VIREO -- 1, 3 Dec., near Kosciusko, JAS; 1, 18 Dec., Noxubee CBC, WCW (new to count); 7, 31 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC; 2, 2 Jan., Washington Co. CBC.
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER -- 1, 18 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, JS et al.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 1, 22 Dec., Sardis L. CBC; 1, about 27 Dec., near Grenada; 13, 1 Jan., Jackson CBC; 1, 29 Jan., Noxubee NWR, WC, MC; 1, all winter, Leroy Percy St. Park (Washington Co.), GEA & GA.
- YELLOW WARBLER -- 1, 18 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, WG.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER -- 1, 18 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, CW, JF; 1, 29 Dec., Hancock Co., LG.
- MYRTLE (YELLOW-RUMPED) WARBLER -- 1462, 29 Dec., Hancock Co. CBC, JT et al.

- AUDUBON'S (YELLOW-RUMPED) WARBLER -- 1 m, last half of Feb. (with 30 to 50 Myrtle Warblers at feeder), Gulfport, JT.
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER -- 2, 29 Dec., Hancock Co. CBC.
- PINE WARBLER -- 72, 1 Jan., Jackson CBC; 4, 2 Jan., Hollandale & L. Washington (Washington Co. CBC), (rare in Delta).
- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT -- 1 m, 8 and 9 Dec., Kosciusko, JAS; 2, 19 Dec., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 1 f, 13 Jan., Kosciusko sewage lagoon, JAS; 1, 24 Jan., Noxubee NWR, WCW; 2, all winter, Leroy Percy St. Park (Washington Co.), GEA & GA.
- RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD -- 178,438, 2 Jan., Washington Co. CBC, GEA et al.
- COMMON GRACKLE -- 145,393, 2 Jan., Washington Co. CBC, GEA et al.
- BLACKBIRD SPP. -- Large flocks noted near Monticello following ice storm of 2 Jan., 3 Jan., CB.
- BLACK-HEADED GROSBIRD -- 1 m, 10 Jan. to end of Feb., at feeder near Kosciusko, JAS, RW, EWP, WCW, WJW (good color photos obtained by RW).
- DICKCISSEL -- 1, 18 Dec., Jackson Co. CBC, JS et al.
- PURPLE FINCH -- 149, 31 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC, LG et al.
- PINE SISKIN -- 4 (with 50 American Goldfinches), 5 Dec., Choctaw L., WCW.
- AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -- 256, 31 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC, LG et al.
- SPOTTED (RUFUS-SIDED) TOWHEE -- 1 m, 23 Dec. to end of Feb., at feeder near Kosciusko, JAS.
- GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE -- 1 (possibly 2), 18 Dec., Bellefontaine Point (Jackson Co., CBC), JI, SP (no previous record for Mississippi).
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW -- 2, 31 Dec., Hattiesburg CBC, CW, JF.
- LE CONTE'S SPARROW -- 2, 18 Dec., Noxubee CBC, WCW, WJW; 7, 22 Dec., Sardis L. CBC; 1, 27 Dec., Grenada CBC; 1, 29 Dec., Hancock Co. CBC.
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW -- 2, 29 Dec., Hancock Co. CBC.
- DARK-EYED JUNCO -- 885, 22 Dec., Sardis L. CBC, WMD et al; 200, 27 Feb., Archer I., Ark., NH.
- TREE SPARROW -- 1, 15 Jan., Sardis L. State Waterfowl Refuge, WMD; 6, 22 Jan., near Sardis L., WMD; 2, 23 Jan., near Sardis L., LC.
- HARRIS' SPARROW -- 1 imm. (with flock of White-crowns), 15 Jan., Sardis L. State Waterfowl Refuge, WMD.
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW -- 8, 18 Dec., Brooksville road (Noxubee CBC), WCW; 1 imm., 22 to 25 Jan., near Kosciusko, JAS, WCW, EWP (rare in area).
- FOX SPARROW -- 16, 29 Jan., Ocean Springs, WCW (10 at Gulf Coast Research Lab, 6 at Davis Bayou); 2, 20 Feb., Davis Bayou, WCW, RWP.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW -- 1, 29 Dec., Hancock Co. CBC, JT; 2, 1 Jan., Jackson CBC.

Key to Observers. -- GEA = G. Edward Alexander, Jr., GA = Ginger Alexander, CB = Carl Bauer, BBC = Ben B. Coffey, Jr., LC = Lula Coffey, MC = Murray Cross, WC = William Cross, WMD = W. Marvin Davis, JF = Jean Freeman, WG = Warren Garrott, LG = Larry Gates, NH = Nona Herbert, JI = Rev. John Izral, JAJ = Jerome A. Jackson, OL = Odee Landrum, EWP = E. W. Permenter, SP = Steve Peterson, NP = Nell Powers, RWP = Robert W. Pyle, JAS = James S. Sanders, JS = John Steen, DS = Dana Swan, MS = Martha Swan, JT = Judith Tonds, WHT = William H. Turcotte, CW = Cile Waite, WCW = Wayne C. Weber, WJW = Wendy J. Weber, BW = Burton Webster, RW = Ray Weeks, JW = Jim Williams.

Note to Contributors: Please submit your sightings for the spring migration (1 March to 31 May) by 5 June 1977, and for the breeding season (1 June to 31 July) by 5 August 1977. If time permits, we will forward your more significant sightings to American Birds as well as publishing them in the Mississippi Kite. For all records, please specify the number of birds, date, exact locality, and observer(s). Good quality, black-and-white photographs for use in the Mississippi Kite would be welcomed.

For unusual records (generally, any species preceded by a "4" on the Mississippi check-list, or out-of-season records of other species), supply as much detail as possible, including a detailed description of the bird(s), preferably made in the field, and the conditions of observation (e.g., bird seen at 40 feet through 7 X 35 binoculars, light behind observer). If at all possible, such birds should be photographed or corroborated by other observers.

Not all records received can be published. Those of major interest are: early and late records of migrants, records of unusual species or unusual numbers of birds, and unusual breeding records. All breeding records, for any species, are desired for our nest record card file.

Sincere thanks to everyone who sent in records for this issue, and we hope even more of you will do so in the future. We can only publish what you send us!