

K.J. Dyer. 2010. Prey records for the Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon couperi*). Southeastern Nat. 9:1-18.

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Figure 1. Bachman's Sparrow observed taking refuge in a Gopher Tortoise burrow in Long County, Georgia, on 23 December 2013. Photograph by Dirk J. Stevenson.

**HOUSE WREN NESTING IN MACON** — The House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) began expanding its breeding range southward in the eastern United States as land was cleared for agriculture, cities, homes, and other purposes (Johnson 1998). This species was first documented nesting in West Virginia in the late 1800s (Hall 1983), North Carolina in the 1920s (Pearson 1934), and South Carolina in the 1940s (Post and Gauthreaux 1989). Nesting was first documented in Georgia by Eugene Odum and David Johnston in 1950 on the University of Georgia campus in Athens (Odum and Johnston 1951). Soon after this a House Wren was found nesting in Habersham County (Nichols 1960) and by 1969 they had started nesting in Atlanta (Parks 1970).

Since that time this species has continued to expand its breeding range southward throughout much of the Georgia Piedmont. By the late 1990s it was

observed near the Fall Line during the breeding season at several locations, and on 8 May 2000, Anne Waters confirmed nesting along the Fall Line on the north side of Augusta (Keyes 2010; Breeding Bird Atlas project data). In June of 2004, I observed a pair of House Wrens nesting inside a decorative nest box mounted on the front porch of my house in Macon, Bibb County (32°86', 83°66'). This location is on the Fall Line approximately one kilometer from the Ocmulgee River. Two young were observed in the nest box on 18 and 23 June and shortly after that they disappeared and were thought to have fledged. A second nesting attempt was made in 2004 in this same nest box starting on 5 July when the adults were seen carrying a few small sticks into the nest box. By 16 July the adults were incubating eggs and on 31 July, four young were visible. My wife, Jane, saw three of the young fledge on 11 August, but did not see the fourth, and its fate was never determined. Interestingly, House Wrens nested a single time in this same nest box from late May through mid-June in both 2005 and 2010, producing at least two young each time. Unfortunately, neither of these nesting attempts was closely tracked and the fate of the young was never determined.

These nesting records constitute the southernmost nesting by this species ever documented in the state. It is difficult to predict how far south the House Wren will ultimately expand its breeding range, but it may occur throughout the state in the not too distant future.

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Figure 1. Nest box with two of the four nestling House Wrens that were present in late July and early August, 2004. Photo was taken 8 August, three days before they fledged.

INFLUXES OF LAUGHING GULLS (*LARUS ATRICILLA*) INTO THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA — Thomasville, in Thomas County, Georgia, is about 88 km north of the Gulf of Mexico where Laughing Gulls (LAGU) are common breeding residents (Stevenson and Anderson 1994). In Thomas County however, the species has been considered a rare visitor, usually appearing after strong storms, tropical or otherwise, and those birds were mostly solitary, in non-breeding (basic) plumage, and present for only a day (Crawford 1998). Accounts in Burleigh (1958) and Beaton et al. (2003) suggest this pattern for the state as well. Exceptions to this pattern in Thomas County happened when I saw and heard 2 LAGU in Thomasville on 1 May 2008 and another on 7 May