

SPARROWS — A Grasshopper Sparrow at F.C.R. May 11 - 23 (GA, PL) appears to be the first found at this time of the year in e. California. A Black-throated Sparrow on Santa Barbara I. May 23 - 29 (LJ) was far from its normal desert habitat. A "Slate-colored" Junco on Santa Barbara I. May 26 (LJ) was very late. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were seen together at Deep Springs May 24 (JD *et al.*) and give us one of the few spring records for the Region. The only Harris' Sparrow reported was one in Los Angeles Apr. 20 (JR). A White-crowned Sparrow in San Diego June 2 - 7 (PU) was exceptionally late; the bird had the characters of *oriantha*, but *leucophrys* from the East should be considered when one is dealing with birds at this time of the year. A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Deep Springs May 26 (DRo) was not only at an interesting locality, but was very late. Wintering White-throated Sparrows remained late with one in San Luis Obispo still present on May 2 (FRT), and another in San Diego there until May 1 (JD); a migrant was seen at F.C.R. May 3 (KFH) and a very late bird was singing at Oasis May 26 (PU). Unexpected was a Swamp Sparrow at Playa del Rey May 20 (*vide* GSS) and another at Oasis May 24 (PL *et al.*), these occurrences establish the latest dates for this species in California.

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Nesting of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Mississippi

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On July 5, 1975 we found the nest, adults, and three recently fledged young Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (*Muscivora forficata*) about 1 km west of U.S. highway 45 at the southern city limits of Tupelo in northeastern Mississippi. On our arrival at 5:30 p.m. we found the birds foraging from low (1-1.5 m) cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) in a heavily grazed pasture. Within a few minutes the birds flew to a nearby 2 ha pond and, after making a few sorties among widely scattered baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and some dead willows (*Salix sp.*) at the pond, the Scissor-tails settled down to roost in a 7 m baldcypress that was growing in the pond about 20 m from the east bank.

Mrs. W. T. Watson had previously located the Scissor-tail nest 2.5 m up in a 4 m sweetgum (*Liquidamber styraciflua*). The nest tree was standing in about 0.5 m of water, 15 m from the southeast corner of the pond. It consisted of four separate trunks emerging from the water. Each trunk had several dead branches. The nest saddled a 3 cm branch where it emerged at a 45 degree angle from the northeast side of a 9 cm trunk. Smaller branches and leaves nearly concealed the nest, though several branches near the nest, and the trunk a few centimeters above the nest were dead and bare. The

remains of a nearly fully feathered nestling were in the nest. The nestling and nest have been deposited in the ornithological collection of the Department of Zoology at Mississippi State University.

Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Watson, who reside on the property, reported that the Scissor-tails still had young in the nest during the last week of June and that the adults frequently foraged in cherry trees (*Prunus sp.*) approximately 300 m from the nest.

Jackson visited the nest site again from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. on July 6, but observed only the adult male Scissor-tail, again foraging from low cedars in the pasture. Howell visited the area from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. on July 6 and found all five Scissor-tails as on the previous evening. This time, however, the birds apparently roosted in a stand of pines (*Pinus sp.*) about 300 m east of the nest site. To our knowledge this represents the first record of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher breeding east of the Mississippi. The species has heretofore been known to breed in western Louisiana (Lowery, Louisiana Birds, Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Acad. Sci. 18: 50-54, 1964).

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