

GENERAL NOTES

Records of the Sooty Tern and Swallow-tailed Kite in Alabama.—On March 20, 1938, following a hard "blow" from the South, an exhausted tern was picked up on the lawn of the Fairhope Hotel, Fairhope, Baldwin County, Alabama. The bird died soon after and was given to Mr. Duncan McIntosh, of Fairhope, who prepared the skin for his collection. Due to decomposition, the sex could not be determined. Mr. McIntosh kindly allowed me to examine the skin and on comparing it with known skins in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, it proved to be a Sooty Tern, *Sterna fuscata fuscata*. I believe this to be the first record of the occurrence of the Sooty Tern in Alabama.

On May 14, 1938, I observed a Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*, sailing over a grove of live oaks on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay about one mile north of Daphne, Baldwin County, Alabama. The bird was watched for some time as it wheeled and glided overhead, frequently coming within a hundred yards, and at a rather low altitude. The white head, neck, and underparts, as well as the black back, and deeply forked tail were clearly visible, leaving no doubt as to its identity. Listed below are all published records, to my knowledge, for the occurrence of this species in the State.

- 1858 Dallas County. P. H. Gosse ("Letters from Alabama," 1859: 216-217), "seen nearly every day [in July] associating in little groups." (Gosse, *vide* A. H. Howell, "Birds of Alabama," 1924, pp. 128-9).
- 1889 Autauga County, Autaugaville, about March, 1889, one seen by L. S. Golsan. A. H. Howell (*loc. cit.*).
- 1890 Hale County, near Greensboro along the Warrior River. W. C. Avery (*Amer. Field*, 34, 1890: 584) says "Not common. Once abundant. It may breed along the Warrior River [near Greensboro] where now occasionally seen." A. H. Howell (*loc. cit.*).
- 1909 Montgomery County, Barachias on May 1, 1909, one seen by E. G. Holt (*Auk*, 31, 1914: 220).
- 1911 Baldwin County, Chuckee [not Chuckvee] Bay on May 12, 1911, one seen by A. H. Howell (*loc. cit.*).
- 1921 Geneva County, Hartford on January 26, 1921, one specimen shot. P. A. Brannon (*Auk*, 38, 1921: 464).
- 1932 Baldwin County, Fairhope on April 20, 1932, one seen by Duncan McIntosh. Helen M. Edwards (*Auk*, 50, 1933: 234).
- 1938 Baldwin County, near Daphne on May 14, 1938, one seen by Fred S. Barkalow, Jr.

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Comparison of the Food of White-necked Ravens and Crows in Oklahoma.—In southwestern Oklahoma it is not uncommon to find White-necked Ravens (*Corvus cryptoleucus*) among the flocks of wintering Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*).

The bombing by State officials of a large Crow roost near Dempsey, Okla., on December 10, 1937, when an estimated 26,000 birds were killed, provided an unusual opportunity to compare the food habits of these two species. A few White-necked Ravens were noticed among the dead and a careful search revealed 20 of these birds. The stomachs of all were saved as well as those of 20 Crows, selected at random in various parts of the roost for comparison. These were examined in the Denver Laboratory of Food Habits Research of the U. S. Biological Survey.

Stomachs of 17 of the Ravens and 14 of the Crows contained food. From the appended table it will be noted that about half of the food of each species consisted of grain sorghums and corn. Insects, mostly grasshoppers, were a prominent food item of the Crows but less so of Ravens. Seeds of sunflowers, melons, and citrons were numerous in most of the Crow stomachs but only occasional in those of the Ravens. Hackberries constituted more than one-third of the food of the Ravens but were not found in the stomachs of the Crows; hackberries were eaten, however, by some Oklahoma Crows taken in nearby localities.

The Crows were apparently more beneficial in their feeding habits than the White-necked Ravens since they ate many more insects and weed seeds. The melons eaten at this season were waste products left in the field. Since the Crows had obtained more insects and sunflower seeds and less hackberries, it would appear that they fed on the ground more than did the Ravens.

Table showing percentages by volume of the food of White-necked Ravens and Crows collected at the Dempsey, Oklahoma roost, December, 1937.

Birds	Beetles	Grasshoppers	Mammals	Grain sorghums	Corn	Melons and citron seeds	Hackberries	Sunflowers	Debris
Crows	4.6	9.4	1.2	24.7	24.9	18.9	0.	16.3	0.
White-necked Ravens..	.1	1.8	4.5	29.8	17.3	3.0	37.5	4.5	1.5

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Long-billed Marsh Wren in Mason County, West Virginia.—Previous records from West Virginia show that only the eastern form of the Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Telmatorhytes p. palustris*) has been found within the bounds of the State. While collecting birds near Lakin, I secured a male Long-billed Marsh Wren on September 17, 1937, in an overgrown weedy bottomland along the Ohio River. After comparing my specimen with the series in the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa., I labeled it as *T. p. iliacus*, a form not recorded in West Virginia so far as I am aware. The specimen was later examined by Dr. H. C. Oberholser, of the U.S. Biological Survey, who confirmed my identification.

According to the views of Mr. W. E. Clyde Todd (*Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.*, 50, 1937: 23-24), the name properly applying to the race of the interior (east to the Appalachians) is *iliacus* instead of *dissæptus*, which is inseparable from true *palustris* of the Atlantic coast region, from Virginia northward.—KARL HALLER, *Bethany College, Bethany, West Virginia.*

Notes from Mississippi.—The following notes comprise a record of species as residents and as winter visitants in the immediate vicinity of Rosedale, Mississippi. I am greatly indebted to Dr. Harry C. Oberholser of the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey for subspecific identifications.

Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*. Four specimens were collected: two males on January 2, 1938; a male on July 25, 1937; and a female on August 5, 1937. The last two being in moulting plumage proved that this is the nesting form in this section of the Mississippi Valley.

Red-eyed Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*. One specimen of this subspecies, a male, was taken March 13, 1937.