

North Mississippi Sighting of a Vermilion Flycatcher

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Vermilion Flycatchers (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) have been reported a number of times in Mississippi, most frequently from a west-central area bordering the Mississippi River, in the southern part of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta, i.e., Washington and Issaquena counties (Alexander 1976, Cashman 1979). There is also a specimen from farther north in the Delta, at Rosedale, Bolivar County (Vaiden 1952). Additional sites of occurrence include the Gulf Coast counties (e.g., Jackson and Schardien 1980). Thus, a sighting of a Vermilion Flycatcher on the Sardis Waterfowl Refuge in northwestern Lafayette County extends the area of its known occurrence to north-central Mississippi.

On the afternoon of 5 October 1985 Theobald observed a brightly colored adult male Vermilion Flycatcher as it flew up repeatedly to pursue insects from its perch on a fence line at the north edge of the resident manager's home and headquarters area. The bird was viewed by Theobald and Clark Littlejohn for 30 minutes from 5-15 m with 7 X 35 binoculars as it performed its typical flycatching behavior. Ponds were 30 and 60 m from the fence on which the flycatcher perched.

Davis and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Knight tried to locate the Vermilion Flycatcher on 6 October, but searches within several hundred meters of the place it was seen the previous day were unsuccessful. The bird was not seen again by refuge personnel.

Literature Cited

- Alexander, G.E. 1976. Observations of the Vermilion Flycatcher: Washington County, Mississippi. *Miss. Kite* 6:2-4.
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- Jackson, J.A., and B. Schardien. 1980. Birds around the state: August 1970-May 1980. *Miss. Kite* 10:10-20.
- Vaiden, M.G. 1952. Birds of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta. *Migrant* 23:1-4.