A BROOD OF ALBINO EASTERN BLUEBIRDS IN MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

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On 8 August 1996 at 1:15 p.m., we observed an Eastern Bluebird (Sialia sialis) closely followed by three all white birds of the same size as they flew across Mississippi highway 493 in north Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi. They landed on the ground and we stopped to observe them from a distance of about 20 feet. The silhouettes and general appearance other than color of the white birds matched that of the bluebird. After about a minute and a half, the adult Bluebird flew into woods behind the house and was followed by the three white birds.

We watched for these birds each time we passed through the area, but did not see one again until 19 September, when we saw a white Eastern Bluebird at the junction of Mississippi highway 493 and Old Poplar Springs Road. It landed in a vacant lot where it appeared to be eating an insect before flying away.

[Editor's note: These albino Eastern Bluebirds were also independently observed by MOS members Elna C. Ezell and Mary R. Hollis.]