

AVIAN PREDATORS AT A LEAST TERN COLONY DURING TROPICAL STORM CINDY

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On 22 June 2017, during Tropical Storm Cindy, I observed avian predators take fledgling Least Terns (*Sternula antillarum*) at a nesting colony near Broadwater Marina, Biloxi, Mississippi. I saw 16 Magnificent Frigatebirds (*Fregata magnificens*) circling around the colony. During my brief visit, one immature frigatebird caught a fledgling Least Tern from the ground and flew away with it while being harassed by adult terns (Figure 1). I also found an immature Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) in the process of swallowing a Least Tern fledgling (Figure 2).



Figure 1. Magnificent Frigatebirds, one with Least Tern fledgling, raiding Least Tern nesting colony, Biloxi, Mississippi, 22 June 2017.



Figure 2. Laughing Gull with Least Tern fledgling, Biloxi, Mississippi, 22 June 2017.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH EATING ALGAE

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On 24 January 2017, I was birding on the grounds of the Pascagoula River Audubon Center at 5107 Arthur St., Moss Point, Mississippi. There were many American Goldfinches (*Spinus tristis*) on the grounds and feeding at the seed feeders. I approached the upper portion of an inlet of Rhodes Bayou where the water was still, and growths of algae were at the surface. I observed an American Goldfinch, possibly an adult female, land on a limb that had fallen into the water within a patch of algae. For ~5 min, I watched the bird move along the limb, probe the algal patch, and withdraw and ingest strands of algae. The patch of algae was green, but each strand the bird pulled out appeared brown. I do not know the type of algae that was being consumed. American Goldfinches