

**BIRDS AROUND THE STATE:
FALL 2017-WINTER 2017/2018**

Compiled by
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The following is a summary of noteworthy bird sightings in Mississippi for fall 2017 and winter 2017/2018 (1 August 2017-28 February 2018). The sequence of information in each account is: species, number, date, place, observer(s), and significance. Numbers of birds sighted are underlined. The significance of sightings is indicated by letters in parentheses following a record. These letters are as follows: (Ac) = accidental, (Ca) = casual, (E) = early date, (L) = late date, (N) = unusually large number, (R) = species rare in area, (RS) = species rare in that season, (U) = species uncommon in area, (US) = species uncommon in that season. Other abbreviations used include the following: ad = adult, Co. = County, cos. = counties, f = female/s, imm = immature/s, m = male/s, m.ob. = many observers, MSU = Mississippi State University, NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, pl = plumage, Rd. = Road, and S.L. = Sewage Lagoon. The list of sightings is followed by a key to observers' initials and a gazetteer of localities.

Contributions of records are welcome from anyone who makes observations of Mississippi birds. Only with the assistance of many individuals from throughout the state over a period of years can we come to understand the dynamics of the bird populations of Mississippi. Contributors should submit records on 3" x 5" cards or similar-sized slips of paper with one record per card including the following information: species, number seen, date (including year), location (state, county, and specific location),

observer(s), and details and significance of the observation. Very unusual records should be accompanied by full details including description of bird, details of observation, and explanation of how similar species were eliminated. While records are welcome at any time, those received by 15 March, 15 June, 15 August, and 15 December will be submitted with the seasonal report to *North American Birds* (formerly known as *Audubon Field Notes* and *American Birds*), and will also be considered for use in *The Mississippi Kite*. Please send all records to:

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FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK -- 6, 5 Aug., Mayersville, CD (Ac) [Review List Species]

ROSS'S GOOSE -- 1 ad, 30 Oct., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (U, E); 2, 21 Nov., 2 mi. east of Brooksville, JH (U); 2, 14-18 Dec., Bluff Lake, Noxubee and Oktibbeha cos., JH, PM (U); 1-4, 20 Dec.-12 Jan., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, JH, MS (U); 1, 21-22 Dec., Broadwater Sun Golf Course, Biloxi, HC (R)

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- 1, continued from spring-12 Sep., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS, JH (RS)

CACKLING GOOSE -- 4, 30 Dec., Southaven, HC, JL (R)

CINNAMON TEAL -- 1, 6 Sep., Pascagoula, BW (Ac) [Review List Species]

NORTHERN SHOVELER -- 1, continued from spring-29 Aug., West Point S.L., TS (RS)

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK -- 2, 17-25 Jan., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS, JH, PM (U)

RING-NECKED DUCK -- 1 m, continued from summer-30 Sep., Stan Tabor Rd., JH, TS, MS (RS)

SURF SCOTER -- 1 f/imm, 9 Nov., West Point S.L., TS (R)

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER -- 1-2, 23, 29 Dec., Pass Christian Harbor, HC (R)

LONG-TAILED DUCK -- 1, 19 Nov., Prairie Point Rd. catfish ponds, Noxubee Co., JH (R); 1, 1 Jan., Broadwater Marina, Biloxi, HC (R); 1, 4 Jan., Ross Barnett Reservoir, Ridgeland, AB (R)

COMMON MERGANSER -- 1 f, 27 Dec., Ross Barnett Reservoir, Ridgeland, AB (R)

INCA DOVE -- 5, 2 Dec., Moss Point, HC, RP (U)

WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- 2, 22 Aug., Greenwood, HB (R)

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO -- 1 ad, 13 Sep., Plymouth Bluff, JO, PM (R); 1 ad, 2 Oct., Plymouth Bluff, JO (R)

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI -- 1, 4-15 Nov., Hiller Park, Biloxi, HC, BW, BJ, DM, TS, MS, JH, NB, m.ob. (Ac) [Review List Species]

GROOVE-BILLED ANI -- 1, 13 Oct., Tillman St., Moss Point, HC (R)

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD -- 1, 18 Nov., Deer Drive, Bay Saint Louis, HC (R)

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 ad f, 1 Dec.-spring, Ables residence, Mayhew, IA, JH, TS, MS, PM, BD, SR (R)

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD -- 1, 3-5 Oct., Pass Christian, MR (R); 1, 6 Jan., Pascagoula, HC, LJ (R)

VIRGINIA RAIL -- 3, 16 Dec., Prisock Field, Noxubee NWR, Winston Co., TS, MS (RS); 1, 10-13 Jan., Loakfoma Lake, Noxubee Co., JH, PM, IB, BD (RS)

SORA -- 1, 1 Dec.-9 Feb., Starkville S.L., TS, MS (RS)

PURPLE GALLINULE -- 6, continued from spring-24 Oct., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., TS, MS, JH, m.ob. (R); 6, continued from spring-24 Oct., Loakfoma Lake, Noxubee Co., TS, MS, JH, m.ob. (R)

COMMON GALLINULE -- up to 3, continued from spring-6 Nov., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., TS, MS, JH, m.ob. (R); up to 8, continued from spring-6 Nov., Loakfoma Lake, Noxubee Co., TS, MS, JH, m.ob. (R)

SANDHILL CRANE -- 3-44, 21 Nov.-12 Feb., Cooksville Rd., Noxubee Co., JH, PM, TS, MS (R)

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER -- 2 ad, 30 Aug., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS, JH (R)

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER -- 1, 10 Oct., Lynn Creek Rd. catfish ponds, TS (L)

UPLAND SANDPIPER -- 1, 2 Aug., Stan Tabor Rd., TS, MS (U, E)

DUNLIN -- 5, 5-13 Dec., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (RS); up to 25, 8 Dec.-31 Jan., Lynn Creek Rd., TS, JH, MS, IB, BD, PM (RS)

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER -- up to 3, 4-18 Sep., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS, JH, PM (U)

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER -- 1, 1-16 Aug., Stan Tabor Rd., AB, JH, TS, MS, m.ob. (R)

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER -- 1, 11-12 Aug., MSU North Farm, TS, MS, JH, PM (U); 4, 26 Aug., West Ship Island, HC, LG (R); 1, 30 Aug., MSU North Farm, TS, JH (U); 2, 6 Sep., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (U); 1, 9 Sep., MSU North Farm, JH (U); 1, 12 Sep., Biloxi, HC (R)

SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- 1, 1-17 Dec., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, MS, TS (RS)

SOLITARY SANDPIPER -- 1, 23 Oct., Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co., TS (L)

LAUGHING GULL -- 1, 12 Feb., Flowood, AB (U)

ICELAND GULL -- 1-2 1st winter pl, 9 Dec.-spring, Pass Christian Harbor, BW, BJ, HC, NB, JH, MS, TS, m.ob. (Ac); 1-2 1st winter pl, 19 Jan.-spring, Washington St. Pier, Bay Saint Louis, BW (Ac) [Review List Species]

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL -- 1 ad, 20 Nov.-spring, Sardis Lake Dam and Lower Lake, Panola Co., JR, TS, MS, JH, m.ob. (R)

GLAUCOUS GULL -- 1, 24 Feb.-spring, Pass Christian Harbor, HC, BW (Ca) [Review List Species]

LEAST TERN -- 2, 3 Aug., West Point S.L., TS (U); 1, 18 Aug., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS (U); 2, 21-22 Aug., West Point S.L., TS (U); 1, 30 Aug., Prairie Point Rd. catfish ponds, Noxubee Co., JH (U)

BLACK TERN -- 1, 9 Oct., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., TS (L)

WOOD STORK -- 3000, continued from summer-11 Aug., St. Catherine Creek NWR, Adams Co., MSt, BS, JS (N); up to 60, continued from summer-22 Sep., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, JH, MS, PM (U); up to 500, continued from summer-29 Sep., Stan Tabor Rd., TS, MS, JH, WJ (U, N); up to 100, continued from summer-20 Oct., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., TS, JH, MS, m.ob. (U); up to 125, 13 Aug.-6 Oct., Greenbrier Rd., Noxubee Co., JH (U); 1-2, 1 Sep., 8 Oct., Columbus Lake, Lowndes Co., JO, TS (U); 43, 6 Sep., Catalpa Creek bottoms, Lowndes Co., MP (U); up to 15, 10-13 Sep., Plymouth Bluff, PM, JO (U); up to 7, 11-14 Sep., Section Line Rd., Columbus, PM (U); up to 150, 18-23 Sep., Lynn Creek Rd. catfish ponds, JH, TS, MS (U)

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT -- 2500-3000, continued from summer-11 Aug., St. Catherine Creek NWR, Adams Co., MSt, BS, JS (N)

ANHINGA -- up to 6, continued from spring-1 Jan., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., TS, MS, JH, m.ob. (U); 1, 2 Nov., White's Slough, Lowndes Co., PM (R)

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON -- 1 imm, continued from spring-5 Aug., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., MS, PM (U); up to 12,

continued from summer-26 Oct., Stan Tabor Rd., JH, TS (U, L); 1, 18 Oct., Lynn Creek Rd., JH (U); up to 38, 7-15 Jan., Stan Tabor Rd., JH, JS, MS (RS)

WHITE-FACED IBIS -- 1, 18 Oct., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., TS (R, L)

ROSEATE SPOONBILL -- 300-500, continued from summer-11 Aug., St. Catherine Creek NWR, Adams Co., MSt, BS, JS (N); 2 imm, 15 Aug., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, JH (R); up to 6 imm, 23 Aug.-23 Oct., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., JO, JH, TS, MP, m.ob. (R); 12, 2 Sep., Stan Tabor Rd., WJ (R, N); up to 4 imm, 3 Sep.-4 Oct., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS, JH, PM (R); 5, 11 Sep., Section Line Rd., Columbus, PM (R); 2, 30 Sep., Lynn Creek Rd., JH (R)

OSPREY -- 1, 7 Dec.-20 Feb., Browning Creek, Oktibbeha Co., TS, LB, FB, MS, LGi, JH, BD (RS); 1, 27 Feb., Plymouth Bluff, MP, JO (RS); 2, 28 Feb., Columbus Lake, Lowndes Co., TS (RS)

SWAINSON'S HAWK -- 1, 12 Dec., Broadwater Sun Golf Course, Biloxi, LG (Ca) [Review List Species]

RED-TAILED-HAWK -- 1 imm "Harlan's", 13-29 Dec., Pride Rd., Panola Co., RB, HM, JH, TS, MS, LG (R)

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK -- 1, 29 Oct., Chickasaw Village Site, Natchez Trace, Tupelo, WP (Ac); 1 dark morph imm, 15 Dec.-25 Feb., Pride Rd., Panola Co., HM, JHo, AB, MD, TS, MS, JH, WP, m.ob. (Ac) [Review List Species]

MERLIN -- 1 f/imm, 10 Sep., Plymouth Bluff, PM (R); 1 f/imm, 13-17 Sep., Stan Tabor Rd., JH (R); 1 f/imm, 29 Sep., Lynn Creek

Rd. catfish ponds, JH (R); 1 f/imm, 5 Nov., MSU South Farm, JH (R); 1 f/imm, 6 Nov., Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co., JH (R); 1 f/imm, 16 Nov.-17 Dec., Browning Creek, Oktibbeha Co., TS (R); 1 f/imm, 19 Nov., Stan Tabor Rd., JH (R); 1 imm m, 7 Dec.-6 Jan., Browning Creek, Oktibbeha Co., TS, MS (R); 1 ad m, 1 Jan., MSU South Farm, TS, MS (R); 1 f/imm, 6-12 Jan., MSU North Farm, JH, BD (R); 1, 21 Jan., Lynn Creek Rd., LGi (R); 1 f/imm, 29 Jan., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, AB (R)

PEREGRINE FALCON -- 1 imm, 8 Dec., Pilgrims Rest Rd., Noxubee Co., TS (R); 1, 15 Jan., Stan Tabor Rd., TS, MS (R)

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER -- 1, 11 Oct., Biloxi, HC (R, L)

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER -- 1, 1 Sep., Noxubee NWR, Oktibbeha Co., TS (U)

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER -- 1, 14 Oct., Plymouth Bluff, PM, JO (L)

GRAY FLYCATCHER -- 1, 30 Oct., Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Jackson Co., MiS (Ac) [Review List Species]

SAY'S PHOEBE -- 1, 12 Oct., Seaman Rd. S.L., Jackson Co., SM (Ac); 1, 30 Dec., Morgan City, HM (Ac); 1, 18 Feb., Okolona, WP (Ac) [Review List Species]

VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- 1, 22 Oct., Hiller Park, Biloxi, HC (R)

TROPICAL KINGBIRD -- 1, 14-16 Oct., Tillman St., Pascagoula, BW, NW, GK, TS, MS, JHo, JR, BJ, HC, m.ob. (Ac) [Review List Species]

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER -- 1 m, 1 f, 1 imm, continued from spring-4 Aug., Sessums Rd., Oktibbeha Co., TS, BD, JH, m.ob. (R)

WHITE-EYED VIREO -- 1, 17 Dec., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., TS (RS)

TREE SWALLOW -- 3, 2 Feb., Columbus Lake, Lowndes Co., TS (E)

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 1, 2 Dec., Bluff Lake, Noxubee Co., TS, MS, JH, LC (RS); 1, 10 Dec., Edmonds Bridge Rd., Noxubee Co., JH (RS)

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- 1, 15 Sep., Starkville, JH (E)

GRAY CATBIRD -- 1, 3 Feb.-spring, Plymouth Bluff, PM, IB, BD, TS (RS)

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW -- 1, 22 Oct., Hattiesburg S.L., LGi (Ca); 1, 11 Nov., Broadwater Sun Golf Course, Biloxi, LGi (Ca) [Review List Species]

LARK SPARROW -- 1, continued from spring-9 Sep., MSU North Farm, TS, JH (U); 1-2, continued from spring-29 Sep., Stan Tabor Rd., AB, JH (U); 1, 5 and 19 Sep., Biloxi, HC (R); 1, 16 Sep., Blocker Rd., Oktibbeha Co., JH, PM (U); 2, 17 Oct., Judge Thomas Rd., Clay Co., DP, JP (U)

LECONTE'S SPARROW -- 1, 4 Nov.-11 Dec., Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co., MC, DP, MS, JD, JM, IB, BP, m.ob. (U); 3, 16 Dec., Prisock Field, Noxubee NWR, Winston Co., TS, MS (U)

LINCOLN'S SPARROW -- 1, 17, 26 and 31 Oct., 10 Nov., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, TS, MS (U); 1, 29 Oct., Judge Thomas Rd., Clay Co., PM, JO (U); 1, 31 Oct., Old Vinton Rd., Clay Co., PM, JO (U); 1, 7 Nov., Noxubee NWR, Noxubee Co., JO (U)

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE -- 1, 27 Oct., Pascagoula, HC (Ac); 1, 30-31 Jan., Hattiesburg, LGi (Ac) [Review List Species]

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER -- 1-4, 9 Sep.-2 Oct., Plymouth Bluff, PM, JO, TS, NK (U); 1, 11 Sep., Tibbee Lake, Clay Co., TS (U); 1, 12 and 22 Sep., 8 Oct., Section Line Rd., Columbus, PM, JH (U); 1, 13 and 28 Sep., 2 Oct., Noxubee NWR, Noxubee and Winston cos., TS (U); 1, 7 Oct., Columbus Riverwalk, JH (U)

SWAINSON'S WARBLER -- 1, continued from spring-31 Aug., Columbus Riverwalk, PM (U); 1, continued from spring-2 Sep., Bright Rd., Choctaw Co., JH (U); 1, continued from spring-6 Sep., Section Line Rd., Columbus, PM, JO (U); 1, continued from spring-10 Sep., Plymouth Bluff, PM, JO (U); 1, continued from spring-18 Sep., Polly Bell Rd., Oktibbeha Co., TS, MS (U); 1, 4 Sep., P.D. Fulgham Rd., Oktibbeha Co., MS (U); 1, 16 Sep., Noxubee NWR, Oktibbeha Co., PM (U); 1, 16 Sep., Wade Rd., Oktibbeha Co., TS (U)

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 1, 2 Oct., Plymouth Bluff, PM, JO (E)

NASHVILLE WARBLER -- 2, 2 Nov., White's Slough, Lowndes Co., JO, PM (U); 1, 13 Nov., Cleveland, LP (L)

CERULEAN WARBLER -- 1, 16 Sep., Noxubee NWR, Oktibbeha Co., JH (RS)

PALM WARBLER -- 1, 8 Dec., Dwelling Place Rd., Noxubee Co., TS (US); 1, 9 Dec.-25 Jan., MSU South Farm, TS (US); 1, 16 Dec., Blocker Rd., Oktibbeha Co., LT, MC (US); 2, 16-17 Dec., Upton Rd., Noxubee Co., JH, IB, JD, TS (US); 1, 28 Dec., Stan Tabor Rd., JH (US); 1, 28 Dec., Greenbrier Rd., Noxubee Co., JH (US); 1, 21 Jan., Oktibbeha Co. Lake, LGi (US); up to 3, 29 Jan.-23 Feb., Lynn Creek Rd., TS, MS (US); 1, 30 Jan., Paulette Rd., Noxubee Co., MS (US)

PAINTED BUNTING -- 1 ad m, 1 f, continued from spring-9 Aug., Harris Rd., Oktibbeha Co., TS (U); 1 ad m, continued from summer-9 Aug., Sessums Rd., Oktibbeha Co., TS (U); 1 f/imm, 18 Aug., Judge Thomas Rd., Clay Co., TS (U); 1 ad m, 1 f/imm, 27 Aug. and 7 Oct., Stan Tabor Rd., JH (U); 1 f/imm, 28 Aug., MSU North Farm, TS (U)

CONTRIBUTORS

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KEY TO LOCALITIES

Localities not listed are indexed on the “Official Highway Map of Mississippi” or the county is listed in the main text.

Lynn Creek Rd. = Noxubee Co.; MSU North/South Farm = Oktibbeha Co.; Plymouth Bluff = Lowndes Co.; Stan Tabor Rd. = Noxubee Co.