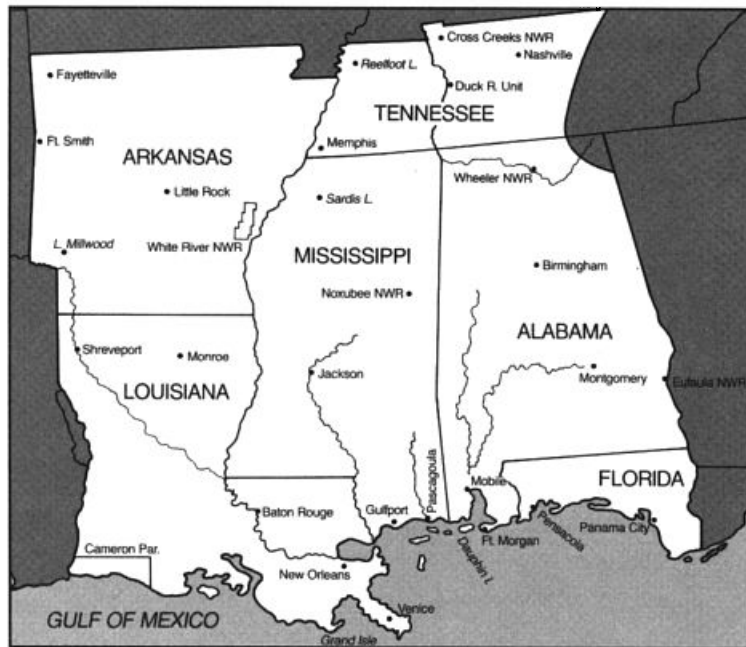


Central Southern



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The most important event of the breeding season, especially along the coast, was the breaking of a drought that had persisted for nearly a year and a half. Tropical Storm *Allison* brought torrential rains to s. Louisiana and Mississippi in early Jun, but normal rain patterns returned over much of the Region, continuing through August, at least. As is so often the case, the effects on bird populations are mainly conjectural, but whatever impact the dry conditions may have had during the two recent springs would have been ameliorated by June's rains.

One effect of the lengthy drought was to bring hypersaline conditions to much of the coastal salt marsh, resulting in a massive die-off of *Spartina alterniflora* in Louisiana, but there was no obvious evidence of impact on Clapper Rail or Seaside Sparrow numbers. On the other hand, the impact of Tropical Storm *Allison* on the barrier islands was decidedly negative, at least initially, with reports of disruption of Brown Pelican and tern nesting colonies. The early date of *Allison* may have permitted renesting.

Abbreviations: L.B.R.C. (Louisiana Bird Records Committee); O.A.S. (Oktibbeha Audubon Society)

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGAS

One of the more remarkable records of the season was a **Red-throated Loon** at Dauphin I. 11 Jun (JFP, LB, BE, MVH), the first summer record for Alabama. A mostly alternate-plumaged Common Loon was at Bald Knob N.W.R., AR 14–23 Jun (KN, LDN, BA), and a highly productive pair of Pied-billed Grebes produced a total of 9 young in two nestings in *Shelby*, TN (WRP, VR); the species is a rare and local nester in the state. Although a Cory's Shearwater seen 28 mi sse. of the South Pass of the Mississippi R 29 Jun (SWC, DLD et al.) was one of only a handful that have been carefully documented from Louisiana, the species is surely regular in summer in the n. Gulf. Further evidence came the next day 36 mi s. of Orange Beach, AL, where the species was also recorded (LG, SWM et al.). The Louisiana pelagic trip also found a single Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, a regular species over deep water in summer; the bird was about 40 mi sse. of South Pass, with another 26 mi s. of South Pass 21 Jul (SWC, DLD et al.). About 24 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were recorded on the two trips, ca. 18–40 mi sse. of South Pass. Finally, a subad. Masked Booby was seen 17 mi sse. of South Pass on the 29 Jun trip. Single

Northern Gannets, which are "rare but regular" off the Alabama coast in summer, were seen 65 mi ssw. of Orange Beach 30 Jun (LG, SWM et al.) and at Gulf Shores 13–15 Jul (DJS).

Inland reports of summering or lingering American White Pelicans included one in *Iberville*, LA 2 Jun (JVR), 58 in *Morehouse*, LA the next day (GL), 110 in *Oktibbeha*, MS 4–8 Jun (TS), and 2 in *Choctaw*, AL 15 Jun (SWM). In company with a large group of white pelicans in *Desha*, AR 28 Jul was a single Brown Pelican (KN, LDN), and another was seen in *Henry*, AL 7 Jul (WDR). These inland records were unexpected, but about 10,000 Brown Pelicans were breeding on Plover I., LA, near the mouth of Baptiste Collette Bayou 27 Jun (CGB, EC, JM), about three weeks after Tropical Storm *Allison*. Single Double-crested Cormorants were in *Washington*, AR 2 Jun (MML), in *Bossier*, LA 10 Jun (LRR, KF), and in *Plaquemines*, LA 27 Jun (CGB); all were unusual. Up to a dozen Anhingas throughout the period at Noxubee N.W.R., where they have nested the past two years, were likely breeding (TS, GS).

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

In the face of recent declines, nesting season records of Least Bitterns are of interest; the only reports received were inland at Noxubee N.W.R., MS throughout the season (TS) and 25 Jun at Reelfoot L., TN (KL). Although a tally of 27,087 Cattle Egrets at Noxubee 25 Jun (MC, O.A.S.) was impressive, the count was down by about 20% from last year. There was only a handful of reports of post-breeding waders found inland, mostly of Tricolored Herons, seen during Jul from *Butler* (AM) and *Montgomery* (CTS), AL, *Lauderdale*, TN (JRW), and *White*, AR (KN, LDN). There were also 7 White Ibis in *Morgan*, AL 28 Jul (BG et al.) and a Glossy Ibis in *White*, AR 12 May–30 Jun (KN, LDN). A White-faced Ibis in *Mobile*, AL in mid-Jul (KK et al.) was only the 11th state record. **Wood Stork** nesting was apparently confirmed for the first time in Alabama based on one at Brickyard L. carrying "nesting material" 2 Jun (LS), and 7 individuals in the Mobile Delta 1 Jun (BS) also suggested nesting; both localities are in *Baldwin*. Nonbreeding storks were seen from early Jun through the end of the period in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, highlighted by a count of 1570 in *Vermilion*, LA 18 Jun (BF, GB).

Three Northern Shovelers in *Vermilion* 2 Jun (DMD, RCD) were very late, but a female **King Eider** found dead on N. Breton I. 31 May

(JM, EC, BH) established the 3rd record for Louisiana, all since 1994, and all in late spring or summer. There were three reports of summering Ruddy Ducks, each involving at least one male in alternate plumage, in *Elmore* and *Hale*, AL (TAP, RRR) and near Arkansas City, AR (KN, LDN).

DIURNAL RAPTORS

Jennifer Coulson's continuing aerial counts of Swallow-tailed Kites in the Pearl River Basin on the Louisiana–Mississippi border yielded a peak count of 263 on 27 Jul (JOC, TDC, DB, PS), and 25 more were counted in the Atchafalaya Basin 3 Jul (JOC, CR, PS). There were reports of Mississippi Kites at the edge of their range in n. Mississippi (*Monroe* and *Noxubee*), Arkansas (*Crawford*), and Alabama (*Fayette*) in Jun. Bald Eagles were present in Tennessee at Eagle L. W.M.A. in Jun (BC) and in *Obion* 5 & 25 Jun (WRP; KL). An ad. in *Bolivar*, MS 25 Jun (NH, JCH) was near where they have nested for several years. Two reports of Northern Harriers 19 Jun in *Jefferson* (GDJ) and in *Cleburne* the next day (HHW, ASC) were the first Jun records for Alabama in over 50 years. A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks seen in *Pope*, AR late May–Jul apparently fledged one young shortly after 6 Jul (LA); another was seen in *Pulaski*, AR 2 Jul (EH). There were four breeding season reports of Cooper's Hawks from Arkansas, consisting of single individuals in *Cleburne*, *Poinsett*, *Washington*, and *White* (KN, LDN, MMI), and there were three nesting records from w. Tennessee (SNM, CHB, VR). There was continued evidence of increased nesting in se. Louisiana this season (JOC, TDC, RDP, MM, DM). Single Swainson's Hawks were seen in *Benton* 4 Jun (KN) and in *White* 21 Jun (MMI), the latter very far from their normal breeding range in Oklahoma. One in *Cameron*, LA 11 Jul (GG) was also quite far east. American Kestrels were seen in *Okaloosa*, FL 19 Jul (DW) and in *Lee*, AL 23 Jun (GEH), where they are rare breeders, while a 30 Jul record of a Peregrine Falcon in *Mobile* (HH, WL) was the first summer record for Alabama's Gulf coast.

GALLINULES THROUGH CUCKOOS

Purple Gallinules at Noxubee N.W.R. early May+ on provided the 3rd area nesting record (3 ads. and 5 imm.; TS, m. ob.), and a pair in *Arkansas*, AR 28 Jul (KN, LDN) had fledged 2 young. Also nesting at Noxubee N.W.R. was a pair of Common Moorhens with 2 young, for the 2nd e.-cen. Mississippi nesting record (TS, MS). Late northbound shorebird migrants included an American Avocet in *Benton*, AR 2 Jun (RHD) and a Whimbrel in *Vermilion*, LA



This dead subadult male King Eider found on North Breton Island, Louisiana, was photographed 31 May 2001. There are very few records of the species for the Gulf of Mexico. Photograph by Ed Creef.

(DMD, RCB) on the same day. White-rumped Sandpipers 17 Jun in *Shelby*, TN (JRW) and 21 Jun in *Benton*, AR (MMI) were likely very late northbound birds as well. One 31 Jul in *White*, AR (KN) is less easy to classify but was presumably southbound and hence quite unusual for the Region. Among early fall migrants were: several Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs in *Mobile*, AL 3 Jul (WDR), Lesser Yellowlegs in *Shelby*, TN 1 Jul (2; JRW) and *Oktibbeha*, MS 6 Jul (TS; the earliest ever there by one day); a Long-billed Curlew 7 Jul on the Mobile Causeway (SW, BE); Marbled Godwit in *Baldwin*, AL 4 Jul (KK); a Baird's Sandpiper 29 Jul in *Colbert*, AL (SAW, DJS, the earliest fall record for Alabama); a Stilt Sandpiper in *Oktibbeha* 6 Jul (TS; the earliest ever there by five days) and another 8 in *Shelby*, TN on 8 Jul (JRW); and a Common Snipe in *White*, AR Jul (KN, LDN). Other early shorebird migrants in Alabama included Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Wilson's Phalarope.

In association with the Brown Pelican colony on Plover I., LA were approximately 1500 breeding pairs of Laughing Gulls 27 Jun (CGB, EC, JM); a single individual in *Monroe*, MS 15 Jun (WP) was unusual at that inland location. Roof-top colonies of Gull-billed Terns were noted in at least three New Orleans area locations, totalling at least 250 pairs (RDP, PY, DM). Lack of easy accessibility made it impossible to judge reproductive success. A Caspian Tern was present throughout the period in

Shelby, TN (JRW, m. ob.), and there were inland records from *Choctaw* and *Monroe*, AL 15 & 24 Jun, respectively (SWM; LG). A putative **Roseate Tern** was seen in *Lafourche*, LA 17 Jun (MM, DM, RDP, PW, p.a.). If accepted by the L.B.R.C., this well-studied bird would be a first record for Louisiana; no photographs were obtained. A Forster's Tern 9 Jun in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TS, MS) was the latest in spring by 12 days for the Starkville area. Least Terns were seen inland: a single bird in *Iberville*, LA 9 Jun (JVR), 2 in *Noxubee*, MS 29 Jul (MC), and one in *Benton*, AR 29 Jul (RHD). A Sooty Tern was seen from land at the w. end of Dauphin I. 1 Jul (KK); the species may have nested in Alabama for the first time this year, on Pelican I. (GDJ)

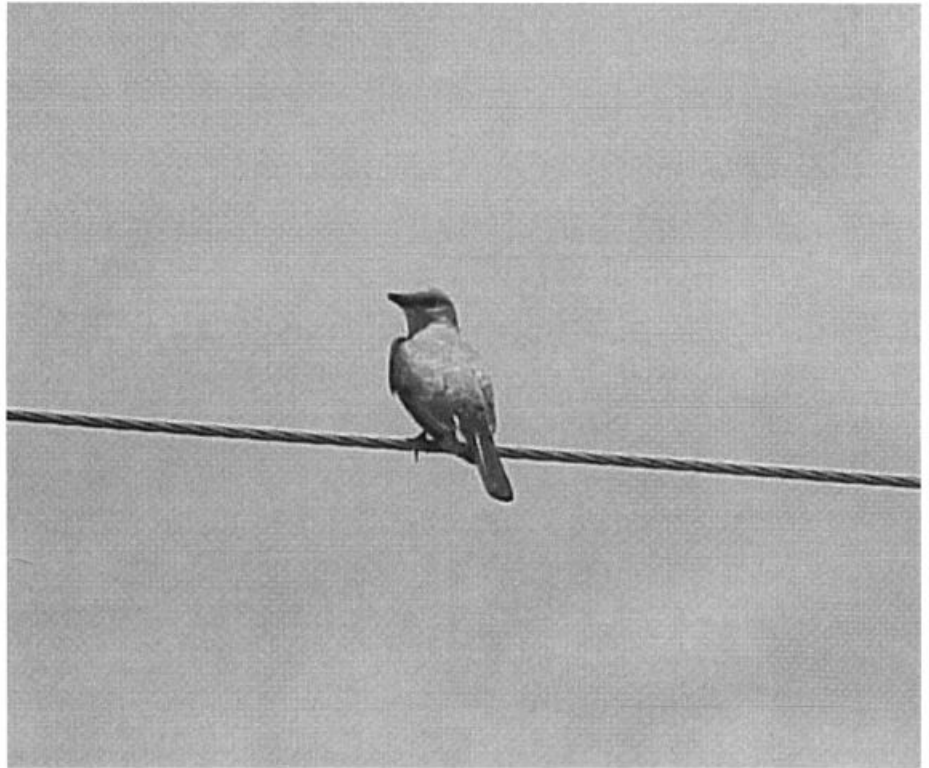
Eurasian Collared-Doves were recorded on 10 stops (14 individuals) of the Macon, MS B.B.S. route 3 Jun (TS, JB); 3 were recorded throughout the period in *Clay*, AR (GH), where they have become fairly regular; and there were two records from w. Tennessee: 6 on 4 Jun in *Lake* (WRP) and one in *Germantown* 11 Jul (WRP). White-winged Doves in Gulf Breeze, FL 10 & 15 Jul (RAD, LD) were the 3rd and 4th Jun records for nw. Florida. Two summered at Foley, AL as well (*vide* HH). Up to 6 Inca Doves coming to feeders in Texarkana, AR as late as 17 Jul (JT) had first been noted the previous Dec. A Common Ground-Dove in Hot Springs, AR 1 Jun (TM, *vide* LA) was unusual, as were Black-billed Cuckoos 2 Jun in *Obion*, TN (JRW), 3 Jun in *Washington* (RHD), 4 Jun in *Pope* (LA), and 10 Jun in *Logan* (JS), all in Arkansas.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

A late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in the Fayetteville area and 6 Alder Flycatchers at the same locality, all 2 Jun (MMI), were noteworthy. Six singing male Willow Flycatchers found 16 Jun in *Boone*, AR (SJG, JOG, JS, PS et al.) were in an area where they were not previously known to nest (MM). The **Great Kiskadee** resident at Venice, LA since at least Apr 1999 was noted again 28 Jul (LE). Although the bird built nests in 1999 and 2000, there was no evidence of one this year. Continuing the recent trend of spring records along the Gulf coast was a **Tropical/Couch's Kingbird** at Gulf Breeze 25 Jun (RAD), the 8th area record and the 7th since 1992. Ingold found three Western Kingbird nests in *Caddo*, LA 24 Jun (JI), among the first for Louisiana; there were two successful nestings in *Shelby*, TN, the 2nd and 3rd for the state, with 4 young in each nest (JRW), while a nest in *Little R.*, AR also produced 4 young (CM). Wilson also had a Mississippi record of the species, of a single bird n. of Tullula 3 Jul (JRW). Gray Kingbirds nested in Pensacola and Gulf Breeze, FL but have not returned to their traditional "stronghold" at Ft. Pickens since Hurricane *Opal* (RAD). Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is a rare but increasing breeder in Alabama. This year, a new nest site was found near Montgomery 13 Jul (DJS), and single birds were in *Shelby*, TN 30 Jun (JRW) and in *Bolivar*, MS 4 Jul (ph. JRW).

Though Blue-headed Vireo is a sparse and local breeder in n. Alabama, 14 individuals were recorded on 11 stops on a B.B.S. route in *Cleburne* 15 Jun (CDC). An even rarer breeder in n. Alabama is Warbling Vireo, which was found at two locations in *Lauderdale* 2 Jul (TMH) and 14 Jul (SH, DH, HHW). The only Purple Martin roost on which data were submitted—in Shreveport, LA—contained an estimated 200,000 individuals 25 Jul (JI). Tree Swallows observed nesting in *Oktibbeha*, MS in the spring were still present 11 Jun, when 7 were seen (TS). They nested in *Lauderdale*, AL as well, where 18 young fledged from four nests in bluebird boxes by 14 Jul (PDK); as many as 22 were noted in that location 9 Jun. There was another nest in Henson Springs, AL (JJ). A singing male House Wren in *Clay*, AR attempted to nest in a bluebird house in Jun but failed to find a mate, and another singing male was found on the Old Milo, AR B.B.S. route 10 Jun (LA).

A singing Veery was noted in the Richland Creek Wilderness, *Searcy*, AR 13 Jun (LA); the species normally nests no nearer than cen. Tennessee. Gray Catbirds, rare breeders along



This Western Kingbird was noted near Tullula, Mississippi, well to the east of normal range; it was photographed here 3 July 2001. Photograph by Jeff R. Wilson.

the Gulf coast, were observed in *Covington* 25 & 29 Jun (RLW, RC; DMW). Cedar Waxwings, rare in summer even in Arkansas, were seen in *Cleburne*, *White*, *Benton*, and *Pope* (KN, GS, LA, RHD). In the latter case, 3 juvs. accompanied 2 ads. 4 Jul (LA).

WARBLERS

Records of breeding season warblers, generally singing males, included a Blue-winged Warbler in *Lonoke*, AR 17 Jun (DMP, SP), a Cerulean Warbler in *Fayette*, AL 16 Jun (DRC, RCu), singing Chestnut-sided Warblers in *Newton* (4; MMI) and *Fulton*, AR (one; LA) in early Jun, and seven reports of Black-throated Green Warblers involving more than 10 individuals and at least 6 territorial males from *Johnson*, *Polk*, *Yell*, and *Newton*, AR (LA, RHD). A singing Worm-eating Warbler in *Escambia*, FL 2 Jun (RAD) was possibly breeding, and territorial males in *Conecuh*, AL 6 Jun (RLW) and nearby *Covington* 25 Jun (RLW, RC) also raised that possibility. Of Swainson's Warbler, which draws attention because of its high priority status, there were records from *Oktibbeha* and *Noxubee*, MS, involving 4 birds (TS, MS), single individuals in *Stone* and *Grant*, AR (KN, LDN; RHD), and reports from Hatchie N.W.R. (DDP), *Shelby Forest* (WRP), and *Shelby Farms* (WRP), all in w. Tennessee. Donate

Roome, graduate student at Tulane University, found 45 Swainson's nests, double last year's total, mostly in the Pearl River bottoms of se Louisiana.

Among other interesting records, a Tennessee Warbler in Memphis, TN 4 Jun (GeP) was the latest ever for the state, and a Yellow Warbler in Gulf Breeze 18 Jun (RAD) established only the 2nd Jun record of a northern-race bird for Florida. Also unprecedentedly late, in this case for for w. Tennessee, was a Blackpoll Warbler 4 Jun in *Hardeman* (DP). A Prothonotary Warbler on the Green Canyon #177 oil platform 22 Jul (TR) was presumably a southbound migrant, while an ad. male Mourning Warbler in *Grant*, AR 10 Jun (RHD) was evidently a tardy northbound migrant.

TANAGERS THROUGH CROSBILLS

Five territorial male Scarlet Tanagers were found during B.B.S. and breeding bird atlas field work in *Clark*, AR 9 Jun and in *Garland* and *Parry* 12 Jun, all by Helen Parker, and there were four records from w. Tennessee as well. Of interest in view of recent declines and in any case a species that is scarce in w. Tennessee, a Bachman's Sparrow was discovered in *McNairy* 13 Jun (WRP, VR, RI). There were five reports of nesting Lark Sparrows from Mississippi: 3 & 9 Jun in *Noxubee* (11 birds; TS,

JB, MS), an ad. with young in *Sharkey* 3 Jul (JRW), and 7 seen 20–21 Jul in *Lowdner* (PJB). The species is a rare nester in the Starkville area. At least four pairs bred in *Lawrence*, AL as well (CDC et al.), and there were other Alabama records from *Morgan* and *Lauderdale*. Grasshopper Sparrows were found in *Noxubee* and *Clay*, MS in Jun (JB, TS, MS, PJB), with singing males at the latter location. A Henslow's Sparrow 6 & 26 Jun in Fayetteville, AR (MMI) was far from the only other breeding site in state, in *Franklin*. Single White-throated Sparrows in *Stone*, AR 2 Jun and in *Lawrence* 3 Jun (KN, LDN) were very late, and a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak in *Lauderdale* 1 Jun (PDK, DEK) was the latest spring record for Alabama. Three first-year male Painted Buntings near Macon, MS, at the edge of their nesting range, were seen 3 & 9 Jun (TS, JB, MS), and there were three records from cen. and s. Alabama (DMW, LG). A male Shiny Cowbird at Dauphin I. 15 Jun (WDR) was only the 2nd Jun record but the 20th overall for Alabama. Records of Bronzed Cowbirds in outlying *Terrebonne*, LA 14 (MPo) & 24–28 Jun (LE) were of interest despite their massive presence in the New Orleans area. Also unusual was a pair of Orchard Orioles in *Boone*, AR 26 Jul (MMi). Red Crossbills continue to occur at the known breeding site in Talladega N.F., *Cleburne*, AL: 7 were there 15 Jun (CDC).

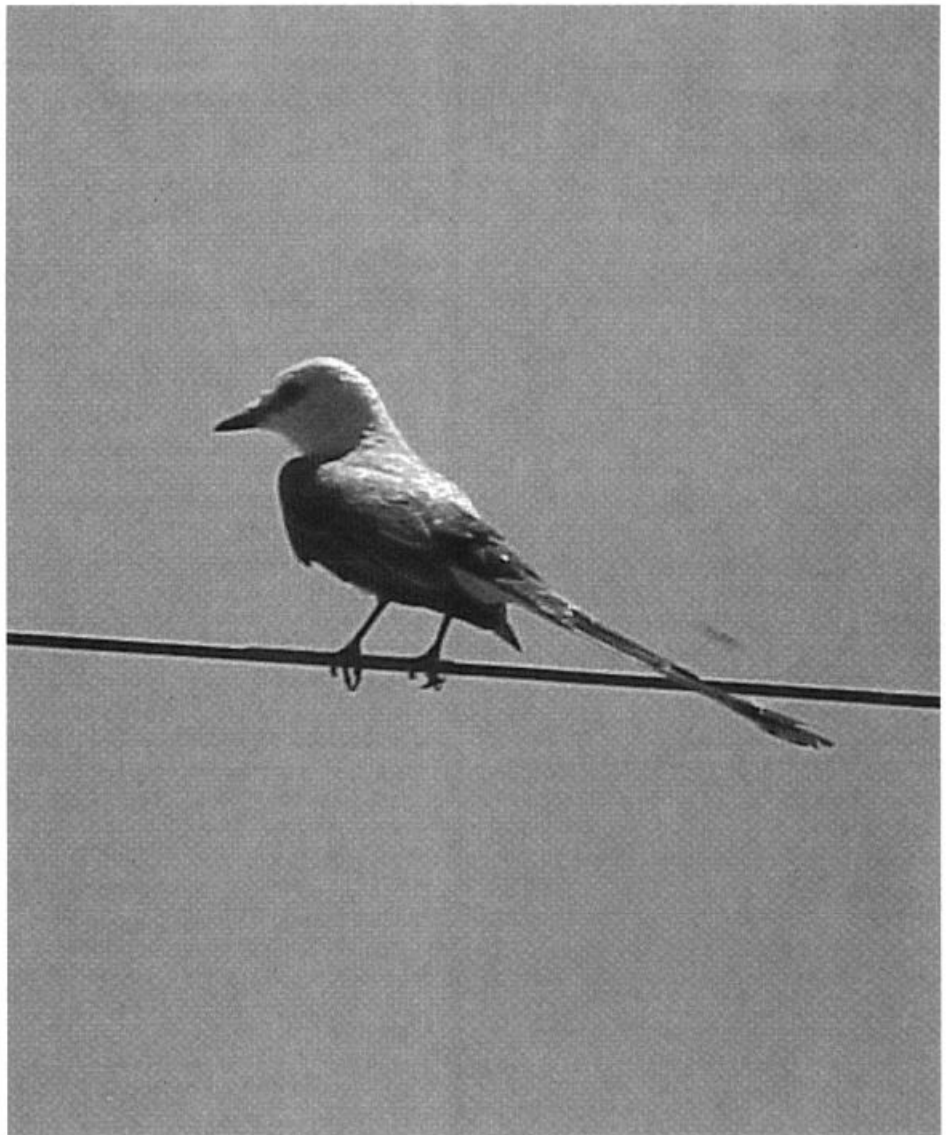
CORRIGENDA

Corrections to last year's nesting season report (*N. A. B.* 54, No. 4): The early Wood Storks reported as having been seen 18 Jun (2000) were actually in *Chilton*, AL, not *Lauderdale* (*vide* GDJ). In Arkansas, Lesser Yellowlegs reported 28 Jun were actually seen 21 Jun; a Semipalmated Sandpiper was reported as 14 Jun rather than 17 Jun and was probably a northbound migrant; a Western Sandpiper was seen on 26 Jun, not 21 Jun. All records by MMI.

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This Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found in Shelby County, Tennessee 30 June. The species is certainly increasing as a breeder in parts of the Region, particularly Alabama. *Photograph by Jeff R. Wilson.*