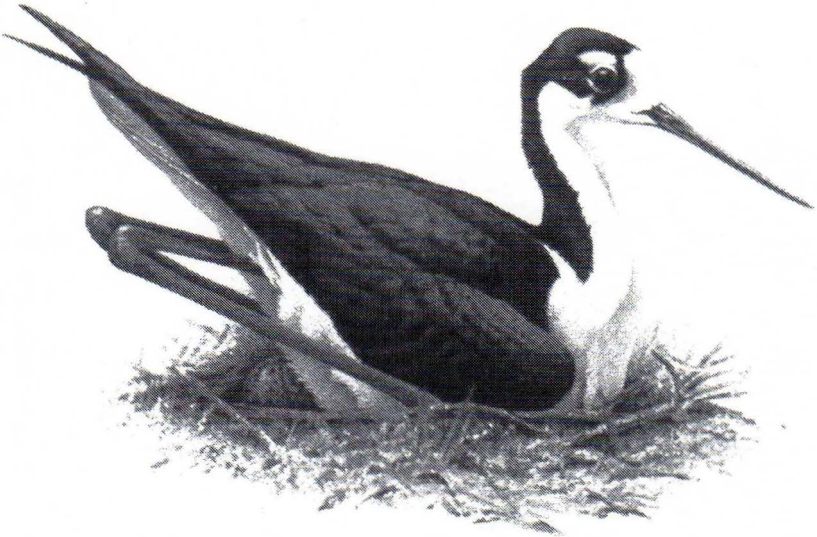


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RESULTS OF TWO RECENT SURVEYS FOR AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITES (*ELANOIDES FORFICATUS FORFICATUS*) ALONG THE ALABAMA AND TOMBIGBEE RIVERS

Eric C. Soehren

The northern subspecies of the American Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus forficatus*) is a neotropical raptor that breeds in parts of North America and winters in Central and South America (Meyer 1995). Prior to the 1900s, it bred along the major drainages of the Mississippi Valley as far north as Minnesota, the Gulf Coast from Texas east throughout Florida, and along the Atlantic coast of South Carolina, encompassing as many as 21 states.

Since the 1940s, the Swallow-tailed Kite's breeding range has declined significantly. Loss of habitat, indiscriminate shooting, and low reproductive rates are believed to be the primary reasons for the species decline. Today, its breeding range is restricted to parts of seven southeastern states (Meyer 1995), including south Alabama (Imhof 1976). Although there has been no systematic count of Swallow-tailed Kites in the United States, it is estimated that there are between 3,200-4,600 individuals remaining at the end of a given breeding season (including nonbreeding adults and fledged young) with 60-65% of the total population inhabiting Florida and 10-15% South Carolina (Meyer 1995; Meyer and Collopy 1996). In the remaining southeastern states, no more than 100 pairs are believed to occur in any one state.

In 1985, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Swallow-tailed Kite as a Category 2 species for threatened or endangered status (species being assessed for biological vulnerability and threat), but recent revisions in the classification structure have removed the species from this list (USFWS 1996). However, those species formerly listed as Category 2 are now informally listed as "species of concern" which currently includes the Swallow-tailed Kite (C. Hunter pers. comm. 1998).

To date, there has been little or no research done on Swallow-tailed Kites in Alabama (C. Hunter pers. comm. 1998). Information on distribution, demographics, post-breeding dispersion, pre-migratory communal roosts, and migration is needed to better understand this bird's status in Alabama and its overall status in the United States. At present the species is not protected under the Alabama Game and Fish Division's nongame species regulation 220-2-.92 (AGFD 1997-1998).

OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of the two surveys was to develop a locality database which, combined with historic records, might help to evaluate the Swallow-tailed Kite's current distribution along the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers. Data collected were deposited into the State Lands Division's Natural Heritage Section's

Geographic Information System (G.I.S.). Information developed from these surveys will aid researchers in collecting breeding data and studying habitat usage, thereby setting a foundation for further research on Swallow-tailed Kites in Alabama.

METHODS

Two surveys, one by boat and one by plane, were conducted along the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers during July 1998 (Figure 1). Surveys by boat and plane are methods that have been used during similar surveys in other states (M. Woodrey pers. comm. 1998). Each survey focused on southern reaches of both rivers where most records of Swallow-tailed Kites in Alabama have occurred (Imhof 1976).

Boat Survey

The first survey was conducted 16 July by boat (aluminum johnboat) on two stretches, or samples of the Alabama River ranging between statute river mile (hereafter referred to as RM) 86.5 (139.2 km) and 170.0 (273.5 km) covering a total of 72.8 river miles (113.9 km). The first stretch started at Miller's Ferry Marina [RM 134.3 (216.1 km)] and ran north to Molette Bend [RM 170.0 (273.5 km)], totaling 35.7 river miles (57.4 km). The second stretch started at the Beaver Creek confluence [RM 123.6 (198.9 km)] and ran south to Bailey Creek [RM 86.5 (139.2 km)], totaling 37.1 river miles (59.7 km). A stretch of 10.7 river miles (17.2 km) between Beaver Creek confluence and Miller's Ferry Marina was not sampled.

The survey of both stretches of river was conducted by two observers and began at 0900 and 1445 respectively. Each stretch was sampled for approximately 3.5 hours traveling at a constant speed and continually scanning the skyline in all directions. All kites observed were recorded by moving directly under the birds and determining their position using a portable Global Positioning System (G.P.S.). Although we were surveying for Swallow-tailed Kites, we also recorded positions for all Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) observed.

Plane Survey

The second survey was conducted 30 July by plane (Cessna 182) starting over the Alabama River [from Catoma Creek confluence at RM 270.7 (435.6 km) south to its confluence with the Tombigbee River at RM 0.0 (0.0 km)] and ending over the Tombigbee River [from Alabama River confluence at RM 45.0 (72.4 km) to Hayes Creek confluence at RM 230.7 (371.2 km)], covering a total of 456.4 river miles (734.3 km).

The aerial survey took approximately five hours, leaving Montgomery at 0730 and returning at 1400, with two breaks for fuel and rest totaling 1.5 hours. We consistently flew at altitudes between 500 ft (152.5 m) and 800 ft (244.0 m) at speeds ranging between 80 to 100 knots (148 to 185 km/hr). Three observers continually scanned the skies and treeline for kites. Any kite observed was recorded

by circling around the bird and determining its position by reading global positioning instruments on the plane. As in the boat survey, both Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites were recorded.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 43 Swallow-tailed Kites was observed on the two surveys. Seven (16%) were observed during the boat survey and 36 (84%) during the plane survey. Thirty-one (72%) of the 43 were recorded along the Alabama River (Table 1), and 12 (28%) along the Tombigbee (Table 2). No more than six individuals were observed at any one location along either the Alabama or Tombigbee Rivers.

Although Mississippi Kites were not the focus of this survey, 39 individuals were observed along the two rivers. Seventeen (44%) were seen along the Alabama River (Table 1), and 22 (56%) on the Tombigbee (Table 2). Unlike Swallow-tailed Kites, Mississippi Kites were seen more frequently along the Tombigbee than along the Alabama River with observations occurring at 16 of 20 locations. Observations along the Alabama River occurred at only six of 18 locations.

We did not observe any Swallow-tailed Kites outside of Imhof's (1976) distribution range. Swallow-taileds were seen more frequently along the lower reaches of both rivers while Mississippi kites were seen more frequently along the upper reaches. Swallow-tailed sightings did not extend upstream beyond Clifton Ferry Park (RM 124.2) on the Alabama River, nor upstream beyond Shultys Landing (RM 139.3) on the Tombigbee River (Figure 1). Surveys by boat and plane proved to be an effective way for observing kites. The boat allowed us excellent visibility to thoroughly examine the river's treeline, while the plane allowed us to survey long reaches of river quickly. Although we surveyed during a time of year when nesting was ending and post-breeding dispersal was beginning (K. Meyer pers. comm. 1998), we hope that some of our observations will lead to finding nests in future breeding seasons.

SUMMARY

A boat and a plane survey was conducted on the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers in July 1998 to record sightings of Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites in an effort to evaluate their current distributions along these drainages. Precise locations of sightings were determined by using a Global Positioning System (G.P.S) and entered into a Geographic Information System database for documentation. A total of 43 Swallow-tailed Kites (31 on the Alabama River and 12 on the Tombigbee River) and 39 Mississippi Kites (17 on the Alabama River and 22 on the Tombigbee River) was recorded.

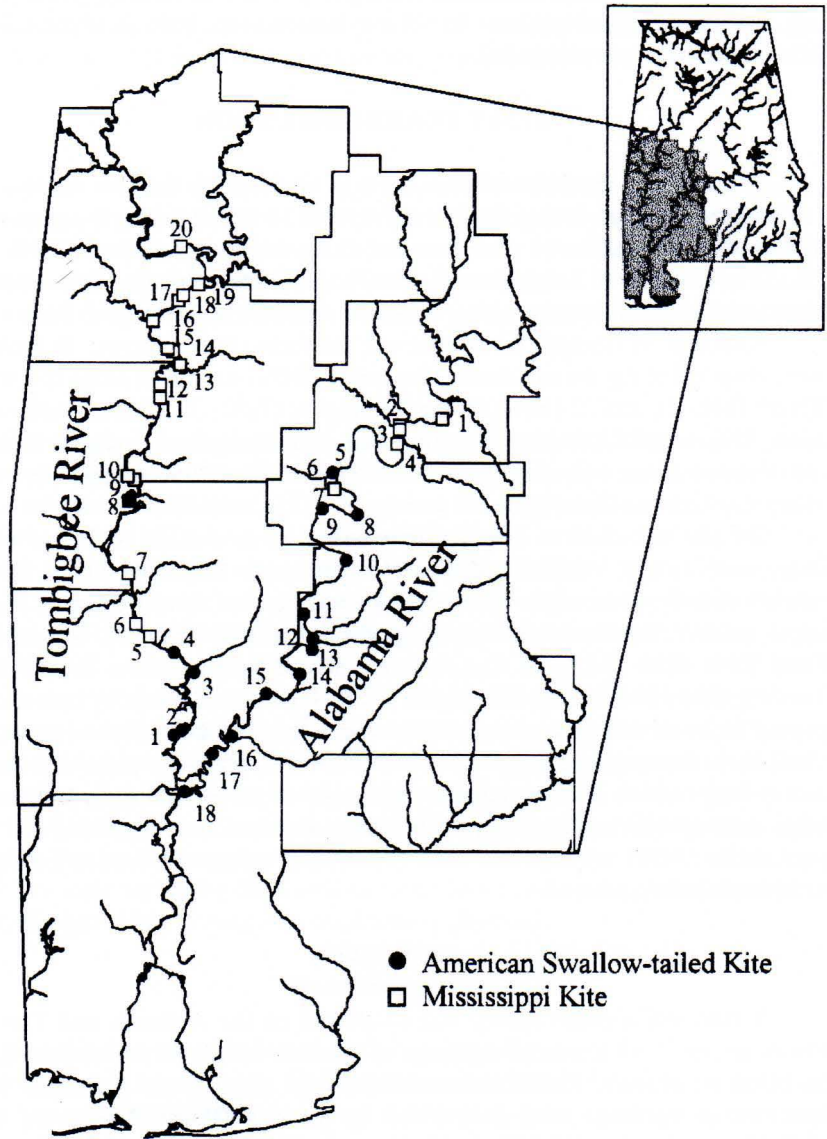


Figure 1. Locations of American Swallow-tailed Kite and Mississippi Kite sightings along the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers.

TABLE 1. LOCATIONS OF SWALLOW-TAILED KITE AND MISSISSIPPI KITE SIGHTINGS ALONG THE ALABAMA RIVER

Date	Survey By	Site	Number Observed		Location ^a	County
			ASTK*	MIKI**		
16 July 1998	Boat	1		1	Molette Bend at RM 168.3	Dallas
16 July 1998	Boat	2		2	Chilatchee Creek Confluence at RM 158.6	Dallas
16 July 1998	Boat	3		1	Sprague Landing at RM 157.8	Dallas
16 July 1998	Boat	4		3	Hurricane Island at RM 154.6	Wilcox
30 July 1998	Plane	5	2		Clifton Ferry Park Boat Ramp at RM 124.8	Wilcox
16 July 1998	Boat	6	6	9	Downstream of Beaver Creek Confluence at RM 122.4	Wilcox
16 July 1998	Boat	7		1	Yellow Bluff Industrial Waste Ponds Drainage at RM 121.1	Wilcox
16 July 1998	Boat	8	1		Gulleets Bluff Park at RM 112.4	Wilcox
30 July 1998	Plane	9	6		Near Suck Creek Confluence at RM 104.3	Wilcox
30 July 1998	Plane	10	2		Near Morrisette Landing at RM 89.7	Monroe
30 July 1998	Plane	11	1		Upstream of Clairborne Lock & Dam at RM 74.2	Monroe
30 July 1998	Plane	12	4		Big Flat Creek Confluence at RM 68.5	Monroe
30 July 1998	Plane	13	1		Downstream of U.S. Hwy 84 Bridge at RM 66.3	Monroe
30 July 1998	Plane	14	2		Opposite Marshalls Creek Confluence at RM 54.2	Clarke
30 July 1998	Plane	15	1		Near Scott Lake at RM 44.4	Clarke
30 July 1998	Plane	16	1		Upstream of Monroe Point at RM 28.8	Monroe
30 July 1998	Plane	17	1		Near Dallas Landing at RM 19.8	Clarke
30 July 1998	Plane	18	3		Near intersection with Tombigbee River at RM 3.2	Baldwin
Total (N)		18	31	17		
Mean (\pm SD)			2.38 \pm 1.85	2.83 \pm 3.13		

^a Locations determined from USACE 1984.

*ASTK – American Swallow-tailed Kite

**MIKI – Mississippi Kite

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TABLE 2. LOCATIONS OF SWALLOW-TAILED KITE AND MISSISSIPPI KITE SIGHTINGS ALONG THE TOMBIGBEE RIVER

Date	Survey By	Site	Number Observed		Location ^a	County
			ASTK*	MIKI**		
30 July 1998	Plane	1	1		Slades Woodyard at RM 66.2	Clarke
30 July 1998	Plane	2	2		Near Bull Ridge Pond at RM 70.0	Clarke
30 July 1998	Plane	3	4		North of Jackson Municipal Airport at RM 89.0	Clarke
30 July 1998	Plane	4	3		Upstream of Stave Creek at RM 93.9	Clarke
30 July 1998	Plane	5		2	Old Lock No. 1 at RM 100.0	Clarke
30 July 1998	Plane	6		1	Peavey's Landing at RM 103.2	Clarke
30 July 1998	Plane	7		1	Seyouyah Creek Confluence at RM 113.8	Choctaw
30 July 1998	Plane	8	2	1	Schultys Landing at RM 139.3	Choctaw
30 July 1998	Plane	9		1	Near Slaters Landing at RM 150.4	Choctaw
30 July 1998	Plane	10		2	Opposite Democrat Landing at RM 152.0	Marengo
30 July 1998	Plane	11		1	Marathon Southern Waste Pond Discharge at RM 171.8	Choctaw
30 July 1998	Plane	12		3	Upstream of Kemps Landing at RM 174.4	Choctaw
30 July 1998	Plane	13		1	Four Mile Bar at RM 183.6	Marengo
30 July 1998	Plane	14		1	Opposite Double Creek Confluence at RM 192.5	Sumter
30 July 1998	Plane	15		1	Gilmores & Lone Brothers Bar at RM 193.5	Marengo
30 July 1998	Plane	16		2	Downstream of Rooster Bridge at RM 201.1	Marengo
30 July 1998	Plane	17		1	Opposite Cypress Slough at RM 207.6	Sumter
30 July 1998	Plane	18		2	Near Simmon Landing at RM 208.8	Marengo
30 July 1998	Plane	19		1	Near McDowell Ferry at RM 212.3	Marengo
30 July 1998	Plane	20		1	Downstream of Hayes Creek Confluence at RM 227.6	Sumter
Total (N)		20	12	22		
Mean (± SD)			2.40±1.14	1.37±0.62		

^a Locations determined from USACE 1972.

*ASTK – American Swallow-tailed Kite

**MIKI – Mississippi Kite

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank Greg Lein and Garth Crow for assistance with observations in the field. Jo Lewis for technical assistance with the G.I.S., Ken Meyer, Mark Woodrey, and Chuck Hunter for providing helpful information on Swallow-tailed Kites, Bill Summerour for reviewing the manuscript, and Ray Stroud for flying the Cessna. Equipment and funding for this study was provided by the Alabama State Lands Division.

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**FIRST NESTING RECORD FOR THE BLACK-NECKED STILT
(*HIMANTOPUS MEXICANUS*) IN THE TENNESSEE VALLEY**

Thomas M. Haggerty and Jeffrey T. Garner

The Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) is an easily recognized species that is primarily coastal in the Southeast (AOU 1998). In Alabama, it is an uncommon transient along the Gulf Coast, breeds at the head of Mobile Bay, and is casual on the Coastal Plain (Imhof 1976). In the Tennessee Valley there have been at least five sightings (Table 1), but no evidence of breeding had been reported prior to the nest described in this paper.

On 16 May 1998, a pair of Black-necked Stilts was seen foraging and copulating at an estimated 20 ha (49 acre) sinkhole pond along Marthaler Lane (Figure 1), approximately five km (3.1 miles) northwest of Leighton, Colbert County, Alabama. On 20 May, a pair was suspected of nesting on a small [approx. 0.25 ha (0.61 acre)] island at the northwest corner of the pond. The island was visited on the following day and a nest with two eggs was found (Figure 2). The nest was a shallow depression in rocky soil and contained old dried forb stems. The adults called loudly from 75-100 m (246-328 ft) away as the nest was examined. An adult quickly returned to the nest after we left the nest site.

On 13 June, 23 days after the nest was discovered, four eggs were found during a second nest check. The shoreline at that time had receded and the nest site was no longer surrounded by water. Both parents were seen taking turns at the nest on 15 June, but at 1000 hrs on 16 June, only one egg was present. Since the reported incubation period for this species is 25-26 days (Harrison 1978), and because the parents were scolding loudly and feigning injury nearby, hatching was suspected. No attempt was made to find the hatchlings for fear of stepping on them.

On 19 June, two peep-sized Black-necked stilt young were observed approximately 75-100 m (246-328 ft) from the nest site. They were foraging along the shoreline of the pond. The parents were very protective and were seen chasing nearby Killdeers and Common Grackles. A third chick was seen on 20 June and the three young foraged between the parents that were spaced at approximately 50-75 m (164-246 ft) along the shoreline. The nest was empty on 27 June, but it is unclear if the fourth egg hatched or if it was depredated.

Between 11 July and 18 July, the female, which had brownish-black upperparts, disappeared from the nesting area and was not seen again. The three young were seen flying for the first time on 18 July. The family of four was last seen on 30 August at a small pond adjacent to Old Hwy 20. This site was approximately 2.5 km (1.6 miles) from the Marthaler sinkhole area which was dry by this time.



Figure 1. Black-necked Stilt nesting habitat at Marthaler Lane sinkhole pond, Colbert County, Alabama. The nest was located on Jeff Garner's left. (Photo by Tom Haggerty)



Figure 2. Black-necked Stilt nest with two eggs at Marthaler Lane sinkhole, Colbert County, Alabama. (Photo by Tom Haggerty)

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TABLE 1. SIGHTINGS OF BLACK-NECKED STILTS IN THE TENNESSE VALLEY

Date	Location	Number of Individuals	Source
16 April 1975	Morgan Co., Wheeler NWR. Garth Slough	1	AB 29:864*
14 Nov 1975	Morgan Co., Wheeler NWR. Garth Slough	1	AB 30:84*
11 June 1980	Colbert Co., Leighton. Gnat Pond	2	Ned Piper pers. comm.
6-25 Sept 1991	Morgan Co., Decatur. Amoco Ponds	1	AB 46:104*
2 May 1998	Colbert Co., Leighton. Marthaler Lane	1	Ned Piper pers. comm.

* AB = American Birds

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Greg Jackson, Paul Kittle, and Ned Piper for their help with various aspects of the study. Also thanks to Bill Rogers for informing Jerry Underwood that the Black-necked Stilts were nesting on his property. Finally, a very special thanks to Mr. Underwood for postponing the plowing and planting of the sinkhole area until the hatchlings had moved away from the nest site area.

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- Thomas M. Haggerty**, Biology Department, University of North Alabama, Florence, AL 35632-0001, and **Jeffrey T. Garner**, Alabama Game and Fish Division, P.O. Box 366, Decatur, AL 35602.



SECOND VERIFIED RECORD OF THE COUCH'S / TROPICAL KINGBIRD COMPLEX (*TYRANNUS COUCHII* / *T. MELANCHOLICUS*) IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA

Thomas E. Lewis and Douglas B. McNair

Flycatchers of the Couch's/Tropical Kingbird complex (*Tyrannus couchii*/*T. melancholicus*) are occasional migrants and winter residents in Florida, with about 20-25 reports (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Paulson 1994, Pranty 1996). A bird of this complex was collected (specimen, University of Central Florida) in early March 1996 on the Florida peninsula near Boca Raton. However, several authorities disagree on the correct species identification of this specimen (Mlodinow 1998). Until this dispute is resolved, no verified records exist for either Couch's or Tropical Kingbird in Florida (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994, Pranty 1996).

In the Florida Panhandle, three occurrences document that this species complex is a rare, irregular spring and autumn transient. One individual was identified as a Tropical Kingbird before the species complex was described and split (Stedman and Lohrer 1976, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, B. Stedman pers. comm.) and D. Ware (pers. comm.) reevaluated his description of a kingbird originally reported as a Couch's (Ware *in* Pranty 1992). A photograph (TTRS P471) of another individual verifies the species complex; this bird was accepted by the FOSRC as a Couch's Kingbird based on description of its call (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). We document herein the second verified record of the Couch's/Tropical Kingbird Complex from the Florida Panhandle.

We closely observed a Couch's/Tropical Kingbird foraging from telephone wires and roadside vegetation near the end of Indian Peninsula, Gulf County, from 1035-1245 hr on 9 May 1996. The crown and nape of the bird were gray; a thin blackish eye-mask stood out in good light. The wings were brown and the back was grayish-olive. The tail was moderately notched, dark grayish-brown, and the tips of the tail feathers were slightly worn. The white chin contrasted with the upper breast which was bright yellow in the center fading into gray on the sides. The flanks and the rest of the undersides were bright yellow. A key field mark was the bill, which was much larger than an Eastern Kingbird's (*T. tyrannus*) and almost as large as a Gray Kingbird's (*T. dominicensis*), both of which perched on telephone wires within two meters of our bird. The overall size of our bird was similar to the Gray Kingbird and larger than the Eastern Kingbird. The moderately notched tail, absence of white in the outer tail feathers, and large bill, separate our bird from the other yellow-bellied kingbirds, the Western (*T. verticalis*) and Cassin's (*T. vociferans*). Although Paulson (1994) described the similarity in size of a Tropical Kingbird's bill to that of a Gray Kingbird's, and we carefully observed and recorded field marks, we were still not confident that we could identify the species because the bird never vocalized. We verified only the Couch's/Tropical Kingbird Complex (TTRS Photo pending).

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We thank D. Ware for sending us a copy of his description of a Couch's Kingbird and B. Stedman for information on a bird originally reported as a Tropical Kingbird.

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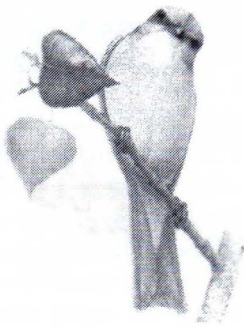
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Couch's Kingbird



Tropical Kingbird

SECOND NESTING RECORD FOR THE WARBLING VIREO (*VIREO GILVUS*) IN ALABAMA

Bill Summerour

In Alabama the Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) is a rare migrant recorded most often in spring north of the Fall Line. It is known to breed locally along the Tennessee River only in Lauderdale County in the extreme NW corner of the state.

Although singing males have been observed in Colbert, Lauderdale, and Lawrence Counties during the breeding season from late April through July, and adults feeding fledglings have been seen near Waterloo, only two nests have been found as positive proof of nesting. The first was recorded in 1936 when, on 7 May, C. Russell Mason discovered a female building a nest approximately 20 ft. high in a Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) along the Tennessee River at the canal lock near Florence. The second was found by the author on 24 June 1997. A female, accompanied by the male, was observed building a nest in a large open grown sweetgum (*Liquidamber styraciflua*) within 100 yds. of the river just east of Waterloo. The nest was suspended from a horizontal fork near the end of a vertically hanging limb 35 ft. above the ground. Notes and sketches were made in the field and later used to illustrate the nest (Figure 1). The site was revisited on 18 July at which time the pair was observed feeding and brooding nestlings.

Bill Summerour, 2012 Cedar Springs Drive, Jacksonville, Alabama 36265. 🐦



Figure 1. Warbling Vireo brooding young, 18 July 1997, Waterloo, Lauderdale Co. (watercolor by Bill Summerour)

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FOURTH ALABAMA RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

This is the fourth report of the Alabama Bird Records Committee covering the years 1994 and 1995. The official Alabama State List now includes 400 species. Of these, three are extinct (Passenger Pigeon, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and Carolina Parakeet), and two have been extirpated (Common Raven and Bachman's Warbler). Eleven additional species are listed in the hypothetical category (no acceptable photograph, specimen, or not seen by at least three experienced observers). Eighty-two records were reviewed, 79 completed, and three are pending.

TABLE 1. 1994 RECORDS COMMITTEE EVALUATIONS

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ¹	Decision ²	AI Status
94 -1	Black-chinned Hummingbird	12/6/87	Mobile		NI	
94 -2	Great Cormorant	10/18/91	Baldwin		A	11
94 -3	Swainson's Hawk	10/15/91	Baldwin		A	17
94 -4	Little Gull	11/20/91	Lauderdale/Limestone		A	2
94 -5	Pacific Loon	2/28/93	Mobile		A	12
94 -6	Pacific Loon	3/6/93	Baldwin		A	13
94 -7	Pacific Loon	4/19/93	Baldwin		A	14
94 -8	Connecticut Warbler	5/4/93	Jefferson		A	33
94 -9	Shiny Cowbird	4/10/93	Mobile		A	9
94 -10	*					
94 -11	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	9/10/93	Jefferson		A	33+
94 -12	Northern Wheatear	10/2/93	Baldwin	V	A	3
94 -13	Connecticut Warbler	10/9/93	Mobile		A	34
94 -14	Eurasian Wigeon	10/31/93	Morgan		A	4
94 -15	Ross' Goose	11/20/93	Limestone		A	11
94 -16	Pacific Loon	11/27/93	Mobile	P	A	15
94 -17	Little Gull	12/19/93	Colbert/Lawrence	V	A	6
94 -18	Pacific Loon	12/11/93	Marshall		A	16
94 -19	Ash-throated Flycatcher	1/1/94	Baldwin	V	A	17
94 -20	Black-legged Kittiwake	3/30/89	Mobile		A	6
94 -21	Black-headed Grosbeak	10/12/91	Mobile		A	25+
94 -22	Bronzed Cowbird	10/12/91	Baldwin		NI	
94 -23	Hammond's Flycatcher	10/19/93	Baldwin	P/B	NI	
94 -24	Yellow Rail	11/24/93	Mobile		A	11
94 -25	Thayer's Gull	1/9/94	Colbert/Lauderdale		A	1 H
94 -26	Western Tanager	1/9/94	Tuscaloosa		A	21
94 -27	Glaucous Gull	1/25/94	Lawrence/Lauderdale		A	25+
94 -28	Lesser Black-backed Gull	1/25/94	Colbert		A	6
94 -29	Black-headed Grosbeak	1/27/94	Jefferson		NI	
94 -30	Red Phalarope	4/1/94	Baldwin		A	15
94 -31	Lesser Nighthawk	4/10/94	Baldwin	P	A	4
94 -32	Common Redpoll	4/27/94	Mobile		A	10
94 -33	Roseate Tern	4/16/94	Mobile		NI	
94 -34	Masked Booby	4/18/94	Mobile		A	34
94 -35	Masked Duck	4/17/94	Limestone		NI	
94 -36	Pacific Loon	1/1/94	Baldwin		A	17
94 -37	Thayer's Gull	12/11/93	Marshall		NI	

¹ Blank - visual; P - photograph; B - banded; V - video

² A - Accepted NI - Not accepted (Identification) Pend. - Pending W - Withdrawn by observer H - Hypothetical

* Same as 94-9. Same bird submitted by different observers.

TABLE 2. 1995 RECORDS COMMITTEE EVALUATIONS

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ¹	Decision ²	Al. Status
95 -1	Great Cormorant	10/18/94	Mobile		NI	
95 -2	Western Tanager	10/14/94	Mobile		A	22
95 -3	Black-throated Gray Warbler	10/14/94	Mobile	V	A	10
95 -4	Great Cormorant	10/13/94	Baldwin		A	12
95 -5	Pomarine Jaeger	9/21/94	Mobile		A	13
95 -6	Audubon's Shearwater	4/9/94	Baldwin/ Mobile/ Offshore		A	6
95 -7	Sooty Shearwater	10/15/93	Baldwin/ Offshore		A	9
95 -8	Pomarine Jaeger	10/19/94	Mobile/ Offshore		A	14
95 -9	Red Phalarope	11/8/92	Colbert		A	14
95 -10	Ross' Goose	11/20/94	Limestone		A	12
95 -11	Connecticut Warbler	9/8/94	Jefferson		A	35
95 -12	Brant	11/12/94	Colbert	P	A	5
95 -13	Bell's Vireo	9/29/94	Baldwin	P/B	A	17
95 -14	Bell's Vireo	9/26/94	Baldwin	P/B	A	16
95 -15	Magnificent Hummingbird	9/4/94	Wilcox	P/B	A	1
95 -16	Black-legged Kittiwake	12/5/92	Lawrence/Colbert/Lauderdale	P	A	8
95 -17	Fork-Tailed Flycatcher	4/26/93	Mobile	P	A	3
95 -18	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	12/8/94	Calhoun	P/B	A	1
95 -19	Black-legged Kittiwake	12/10/94	Mobile/ Offshore		A	9
95 -20	Red Phalarope	12/31/94	Baldwin		A	16
95 -21	Magnificent Hummingbird	12/3/94	Monroe	P/B	A	2
95 -22	Calliope Hummingbird	12/29/94	St. Clair	P/B	A	3
95 -23	Allen's Hummingbird	12/12/94	Calhoun	P/B	A	4
95 -24	Allen's Hummingbird	1/31/95	Mobile	P/B	Pend.	
95 -25	Eurasian Wigeon	12/17/94	Limestone		NI	
95 -26	Eurasian Wigeon	2/19/95	Lauderdale		A	5
95 -27	Pacific Loon	12/31/94	Baldwin		A	18
95 -28	Pacific Loon	1/2/95	Baldwin		A	19
95 -29	Thick-billed Vireo	10/15/94	Baldwin	P/B	W	
95 -30	Ross' Goose	3/13/95	Colbert		A	13
95 -31	Lesser Black-backed Gull	4/8/95	Mobile		A	7
95 -32	White-faced Ibis	4/21/95	Mobile		A	8
95 -33	Pacific Loon	4/27/95	Mobile		A	20
95 -34	Glaucous Gull	4/27/95	Mobile		A	26+
95 -35	Western Meadowlark	4/10/95	Lauderdale		A	19
95 -36	Arctic Tern	5/10/95	Baldwin		NI	
95 -37	Swainson's Hawk	5/13/95	Lauderdale		NI	
95 -38	Roseate Spoonbill	7/29/89	Jackson		A	7
95 -39	Northern Wheatear	9/21/93	Montgomery	P	A	2
95 -40	Ruff	5/14/95	Baldwin		Pend.	
95 -41	Roseate Spoonbill	7/20/95	Mobile		A	9
95 -42	Roseate Spoonbill	7/23/95	Shelby/Jefferson		A	10
95 -43	Cinnamon Teal	6/10/95	Marengo		A	4
95 -44	Black-headed Grosbeak	10/10/93	Jefferson		A	26+
95 -45	Blue-throated Hummingbird	7/21/95	Jefferson		Pend.	

¹ Blank - visual; P - photograph; B - banded; V - video

² A - Accepted NI - Not accepted (Identification) Pend. - Pending W - Withdrawn by observer H - Hypothetical

Ann L. Miller, 520 Yorkshire Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35209



DR. THOMAS M. HAGGERTY APPOINTED EDITOR

Dr. Thomas M. Haggerty, Associate Professor of Biology at the University of North Alabama in Florence has been appointed Editor of *Alabama Birdlife*. The appointment will become effective on 1 January 1999. Haggerty succeeds Dr. Bill Summerour who has served as Interim Editor for several months.

In addition to a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Arkansas, Haggerty holds a M.A. in Biology from Appalachian State University, and a B.A. in Biology from the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Haggerty has done extensive research on the Reproductive Ecology of Bachman's Sparrow and has published his findings in the *American Midland Naturalist*, the *Southwestern Naturalist*, and the *Wilson Bulletin*, as well other journals.

Dr. Haggerty has made a presentation on Bachman's Sparrow to the Alabama Ornithological Society and has published several articles in *Alabama Birdlife*. With this appointment he becomes a member of the AOS Board of Directors.

In response to an inquiry about his leisure activities Haggerty commented that in addition to family activities, he spends his spare time "continuing my research on the Carolina Wren."

Dr. Haggerty resides in Florence with his wife Lib and sons Ken and Mike.

An Appreciation from AOS President Charles Kennedy

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Bill Summerour for his assistance in publishing this issue of *Alabama Birdlife*. Bill served AOS well for many years as Editor of *Alabama Birdlife* and it was with a great deal of hesitancy that I asked him to un-retire for a while to be the Interim Editor. He agreed to my request and immediately began to solicit and review articles for publication. Thanks to my good friend for a job well done.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Manuscripts submitted for publication in *Alabama Birdlife* should conform to the guidelines listed below. *Articles should include some facet of bird ecology, natural history, behavior, management/conservation or other related topics.* Refer to this issue or to recent past issues for examples. *Alabama Birdlife* is published twice a year: deadlines for submitting articles are 1 **June** and 1 **November**. If you have access to an IBM compatible or Macintosh computer it saves time and money if you submit your manuscript on a 3 1/2 inch floppy disk along with the hard copy (Word or WordPerfect preferred).

Submit manuscripts typed and double spaced on 8 1/2 x 11 inch typing paper.

Black and white photos are preferred, but color prints and slides are acceptable. *Convert slides to prints before submitting article.*

The title should be in CAPS. If the name of a species is used in the title, it should be followed by the scientific name in parentheses, e.g. CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*OPORORNIS AGILIS*).

The author's name should be in lower case and centered under the title.

If the article is coauthored by a married couple bearing the same last name, the names should be kept separate, e.g. John B. Brown and Sarah D. Brown.

Whenever a species name is used for the first time in the body of an article, it should be followed by the scientific name in parentheses, e.g. Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*).

When using dates, the day should be placed before the month, e.g. 13 April 1992.

Spell out numbers ten and under and use numerals for numbers 11 and above.

Distances should be expressed in English units followed by the metric equivalent in parentheses, e.g. 6.2 miles (10K). Use the metric system only for scientific measurements, e.g. wing 10.3 cm; tail 15.6 cm.

The title of tables should be in CAPS and placed above the table.

The description of figures should be in lower case and placed beneath the figure.

Refer to the Literature Cited in this issue for the correct way to state references.

Three or less references should be incorporated into the text of the article rather than listed separately at the end, e.g. Imhof (1976, *Alabama Birds*).

The author's name and full address should be line typed at the end of the article. The name used should match the name given under the title.

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