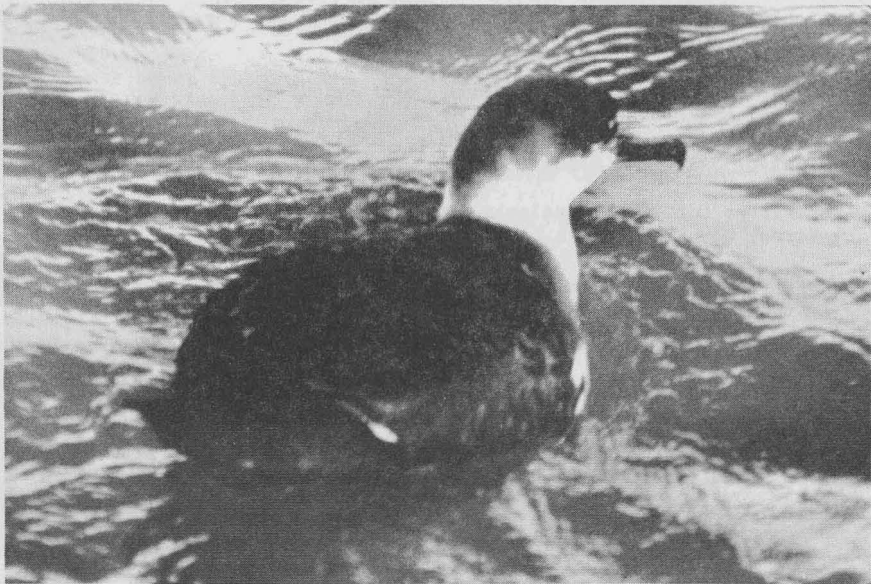


Observers: Thomas Z. Atkeson, Lois P. Archer, Birmingham Audubon Society, J. R. Bailey, Katherine & Millicent Beck, Michael L. Bierly, William J. Galvert, P. Fairly Chandler, Joseph Lambert Dorn, Mike Fuller, Mary A. Gaillard, Wylie Gammon, Sherlie Gade, EmmyLou Grimley, K. W. Grimley, R. E. & Sharon B. Hayward, Bob & Heather Huntley, Verda D. Horne, David C. Hulse, Donald J. & Billie Sue Hulsey, Thomas A. Imhof, John M. Imhof, Helen H. Kittinger, K. R. Kittinger, Richard J. Kittinger, William Matheny, Mary Lou Mattis, Margaret E. Miller, Ann L. Miller, Bob G. Meadows, Harriett & Tom Meadows, Albert & Mini Nonkes, James V. Peavy, Lee N. Peavy, Robert R. Reid, Jo L. Susenbach, Genevieve & Jim Spafford, Pat Stallings, Lib R. Toenes, Helen B. Thigpen, James C. Thompson, L. A. Wells, W. Roger Maner, Tom Walker (TWa), Ted Weems, Emmett N. Waldrep, Harriett H. Wright, Joseph D. Wetzel, Joe E. Wright, J. Ross Williams, Iva C. Young.

Abbreviations: TV-Tennessee Valley, MtR-Mountain Region, Pied-Piedmont, UCP-Upper Coastal Plain, LCP-Lower Coastal Plain, GC-Gulf Coast, mob-many other birders, rec-record, L-Lake.

1036 Pike Road, Birmingham 35218



Photograph by Helen H. Kittinger;
courtesy of AOS slide collection committee

OFFSHORE TRIP INTO GULF OF MEXICO

September 10, 1973

Thomas A. Imhof

Through the courtesy of the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium on Dauphin Island and specifically Drs. William W. Schroeder and Dan C. Holliman and Boat Capt. Thomas Walker, six of us - Helen H. and Ricky Kittinger, Ann L. Miller, W. Roger Maner, James V. Peavy and Thomas A. Imhof - birded from the RV Pisces to at least 10 miles south of Dauphin Island on September 10, 1973.

We left Bayou La Batre about dawn, 6:00 a.m., passed just west of Dauphin, went at least ten miles south, turned east to the Ship Channel, followed it north into Mobile Bay, then into Mississippi Sound, and reached Bayou La Batre about 5:00 p.m. The sky was partly cloudy with occasional rain squalls and the

5-10 knot SW wind produced 4-foot swells. Use of binoculars and cameras was often difficult due to the choppiness, but this same wind brought some sea birds closer to shore, even into Mississippi Sound.

The best bird seen was CORY'S SHEARWATER, *Puffinus diomedea*, first record for Alabama and probably the entire Gulf of Mexico. This bird, in Mississippi Sound about 7:00 a.m., flew toward the boat and passed less than 10 yards to starboard (right). Field marks noted were its large size (larger than Greater Shearwater or Laughing Gull), uniformly dark brown upperparts including head, gradual shading on sides of head to white throat and white below, and large pale yellow bill. Walker discovered the bird, Maner and Peavy in the bow saw it well, the rest of us saw mostly the upperparts.

This species breeds in the Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic (Canaries, Azores), migrates west in fall to become common offshore from Newfoundland to the Carolinas August to November, and winters south to Brazil. To our knowledge it had not been recorded in the Gulf of Mexico, but it is certainly to be expected there.

Other marine species seen were: Greater Shearwater, 5 (photo, seen at least 4 times this August and September); unidentified shearwater, 1; Magnificent Frigatebird, 23 (photo); Northern Phalarope, 6 (earliest for state); unidentified phalarope, 2; Pomarine Jaeger, 5 (flock with 2 adults attacked Sandwich Terns - 3rd record for state); unidentified immature jaegers, 3; Herring Gull, 4; Ring-billed Gull, 20; Laughing Gull, 500; Royal Tern, 150; Sandwich Tern, 20; Least Tern, 2; Black Tern, 1000; hummingbird, 1 (halfway between Fort Morgan and Dauphin Island going west).

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FIELD NOTE: CLIFF SWALLOW NESTING IN COLBERT COUNTY, ALABAMA 1972-1973

James V. Peavy, Jr.

In July of 1972, Bob and Elberta Reid checked Cliff Swallows nesting in Colbert County. The results of their search indicated at least three different localities with active nests and one additional site with a probable nest. Localities and counts are as follows:

1. Natchez Trace Parkway bridge over the Tennessee River - 200+ nests, 110 birds counted.
2. Colbert Steam Plant bridge over Cane Creek - 28 nests with 22 birds.
3. Little Bear Creek at U.S. 72 - 3 nests with 26 birds.
4. Town Creek at Ala. 184 - 2 birds, nest not seen.

In July of 1973, Roger Maner and I surveyed this same general area; we found Cliff Swallow nests at six sites and birds at one additional site. Localities and counts are as follows:

1. Natchez Trace Parkway bridge - no significant change from 1972.
2. Colbert Steam Plant bridge at Cane Creek - 57 nests with 40 birds.
3. Spring Creek at U.S. 72 - 2 nests with 4 birds.
4. Town Creek at Ala. 184 - 1 nest, no birds.
5. Big Bear Creek at U.S. 72 - 5 nests with 10 birds.
6. Unnamed Creek on Colbert Co. Rt. 40 - 5 nests with 30 birds.
7. Colbert Co. Rt. 40 at Town Creek - 4 birds, no nests.