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Reports of Albino Birds in Arkansas Since 1968

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General Notes

SPECIES	YEAR									
	1979		1981		1982		1983		1984	
	vol.	freq.	vol.	freq.	vol.	freq.	vol.	freq.	vol.	freq.
acorns (<i>Quercus</i> spp.)	65	83	18	31	27	80	0	0	5	33
muscadine fruit (<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>)	5	17	31	77	5	20	11	55	3	33
sumac seed heads (<i>Rhus</i> spp.)	19	50	30	85	37	100	23	82	13	33
greenbriar leaves (<i>Smilax</i> spp.)	8	63	19	69	9	80	47	100	53	100
fungi (<i>Viburnum</i> spp.)	8	67	3	77	10	90	24	92	17	100
huckleberry fruit (<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.)	t	4	t	8	5	10	0	0	0	0
honeysuckle leaves and stems (<i>Lonicera japonica</i>)	t	13	t	8	1	10	0	0	0	0
unidentified leaves (<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>)	0	0	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poke berries (<i>Phytolacca americana</i>)	T	4	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0

Additional species found in trace amounts (t) in 1 or more samples:
oak leaves (*Quercus* spp.)
muscadine leaves
Virginia creeper leaves (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)
grass
elm leaves (*Ulmus* spp.)
rose hip (*Rosa* spp.)
rattan vine leaves (*Berchemia scandens*)
haw leaves

Table 1. Mean volume (%) and frequency of occurrence of rumen contents of deer from The Ouachita National Forest, 1979-84.

that greenbriar was a substitute food when mast was unavailable.

In 1981, a year of good muscadine production, 77% of samples contained muscadine fruits. Mean volume was 31%. In other years muscadine was present in at least 17% of samples.

Although fungi averaged no more than 24% by volume, and averaged only 31% in 1981, frequency of occurrence ranged from 67-100%. Since field observations indicate that total biomass of fungi present throughout the Forest is low, these data demonstrate that fungi constituent a preferred constituent of deer diets.

It is apparent that a variety of hard and soft mast species are important components of fall deer diets in the Ouachita National Forest. Because of annual fluctuations of some mast-producing species, management should be directed towards perpetuating a variety of mast-producers in Forest timber stands. Other research needs include measuring the effects of silvicultural and wildlife stand improvement practices on mast-production, determination of food preferences during other seasons (particularly the late-summer stress period), and relating this data to habitat capability indices already developed for Ouachita Forest pine stands (Fenwood, Proc. Annu. Conf. Southeast Assoc. Fish and Wildl. Agencies, 38, 1983, in press).

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REPORTS OF ALBINO BIRDS IN ARKANSAS SINCE 1968

It is the purpose of this paper to record the results of reports made on albino birds in the state of Arkansas since 1968. Sight identification and museum specimens were used for this study. A previous paper (Hanebrink, 1968b) recorded albino birds from Arkansas up to 1968. All records of the descriptions of albino birds are kept in a card catalogue in the biology department at Arkansas State University.

There are several papers and notes recording albino birds from North America in the literature. Some of which include papers by Deane (1876, 1879 and 1880), McGregor (1900), Edson (1928), Hicks (1934), Hunter (1939), Lee and Keeler (1951), Phillips (1954), Nero (1954), Lincoln (1958), Weller (1959), Whitaker (1960), Ross (1963) and Hanebrink (1968a, 1968b, 1969 and 1971). In Europe Sage (1962, 1963) and Glegg (1931) made extensive studies.

Since the 1968 publication of albino birds recorded in Arkansas, I have continued to collect information on sight records and museum specimens from throughout the state. These records were forwarded to me by several Arkansas Audubon Society members and the information was placed in a card catalogue and filed. The data which appears in this paper is a compilation from the card catalogue housed in the biology department at Arkansas State University.

The term albinism has generally applied to animals showing some degree of abnormal white or depigmentation. Pettingill (1970) recognizes four degrees of albinism in birds. (1) Total Albinism, when all pigments are completely absent from the plumage, irises, and skin, (2) Incomplete Albinism, when the pigments are completely absent from the plumage, or irises, or skin, but not from all three, (3) Imperfect Albinism (Dilute) when all the pigments are reduced or diluted, and (4) Partial Albinism, when the pigments are reduced, or one or more is absent, from the parts of any or all three areas. Of the four degrees of albinism, partial is the most common type.

A total of 78 individuals of 26 species were reported by the writer in 1968. The 26 species were represented in 16 different families and from four orders. In this paper another 78 individuals of 16 species were added. The 16 species are represented in 10 different families and four orders.

Sage (1963) stated that the great bulk of the records of British birds (67%) have occurred in the Turdidae, Corvidae, Hirundinidae, Passeridae, Sturnidae and Fringillidae in that order. Glegg's (1931) data shows that the families he found most affected were in order of frequency, the Turdidae, Sturnidae, Fringillidae, Passeridae, Corvidae and Phasianidae. Lee and Keeler (1951) tabulated records of plumage variations of the

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U.S. birds. The results involved 36 families and those with the greatest number of records were the Fringillidae, Corvidae, Icteridae, Anatidae, Phasianidae and Turdidae. In this study the combined results as shown in Table 1 include 156 individuals of seven orders and 18 families listed for the state. Most of the individuals showed partial albinism which represented 50.5 per cent followed by 31.2 per cent for complete/incomplete and 17.0 per cent for dilute forms. The families with the highest per cent are as following: Icteridae 26.2 per cent, Ploceidae 16.0 per cent, Fringillidae 13.4 per cent, Turdidae 10.2 per cent, Corvidae 06 per cent and Sturnidae 06 per cent. Albinism was found in 33 species in the state.

Accipitridae

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

A pure albino Red-tailed Hawk was observed by Steve Bounds on 10 and 14 November, 1975. The location was near Warm Springs in Randolph County.

A partial Red-tailed Hawk was displayed alive at the 1982 fall meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society meeting in Little Rock. The hawk was photographed by the writer and color slides are in the A.S.U. collection. The markings of white was splashed with normal feathers. The red tail was of normal color.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

A dilute albino Bald Eagle was observed by several members of the Northeast Arkansas Audubon Society and was photographed by Dr. Ed Price. The photograph is in the writer's collection at A.S.U. The Bald Eagle was present at Big Lake Wildlife Refuge during January, 1981. The color appeared washed out to a very dilute form with some pigment at the tips of the primaries.

Cuculidae

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)

An all white Yellow-billed Cuckoo was observed during the first week of April, 1969 by Malcolm Johnson near Tellar, Drew County, fide J. O. Tooley.

Trochilidae

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)

Nola Boyd of Leslie, Arkansas reported an extreme dilute albino Ruby-throated Hummingbird. It was described as pale pearl gray with yellow bill.

Hirundinidae

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*)

A complete albino Purple Martin was observed and photographed on North Country Club Blvd. in Little Rock during the first week in July, 1975. The photograph appeared in the Pulaski Co. Audubon Society Newsletter, Vol. 9 (4), August, 1975. A photograph was also sent to the writer and is in the A.S.U. card catalogue. Louis Lanford photographed the bird.

Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*)

A partial albino Tree Swallow was observed by Keith Sutton on the sewage ponds at Cherry Valley in Cross County on 8 October, 1976. The partial albino was flying with other Tree Swallows and was described as having a white head with the white extending down to one-third of its back. Other plumage was of normal color.

Corvidae

American Crow (*Corvus branchyrhynchus*)

A complete albino American Crow was reported from Batesville, Arkansas by Rodney Harris. This individual was observed twice during February, 1978.

A partial albino American Crow was observed on 22 November, 1980 by John Row, two miles nw of Greenfield. The crow was normal pigmented with the exception of two large white patches on each wing.

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*)

A complete albino Blue Jay was photographed by Walter Heins of Rogers and appeared in the *Rogers Daily News*, 15 June, 1969. The photograph was sent to the writer and is in the A.S.U. card catalogue.

A complete albino Blue Jay was photographed on 20 March, 1968 in Little Rock by Mrs. J. H. Staucey.

An extremely dilute albino Blue Jay was observed by Charles Long, Dr. Ed Price, Dr. Rick McDaniel and Mrs. Tim Brown in the vicinity of Oaklawn Cemetery and nearby residences in Jonesboro for most of the spring and summer of 1982 and 1983. The Blue Jay had barely visible markings with fine etching of the basic pattern. It was mainly yellowish white with pigmented eyes.

Turdidae

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)

Dr. Paul Raines observed an extreme dilute albino Eastern Bluebird on 28 May, 1983 approximately three miles e of Glenwood, in Montgomery County. The individual had a vague pattern where the brown breast occurs.

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

Joe Arnold of Flippin reported two partial albino robins from Marion County observed in November of 1966.

Fred Griffith, fide Joe Arnold reported a complete albino robin observed during December of 1967 from Flippin.

Frances Thompson from Clarkville, Johnson County reported a partial albino American Robin observed 4 May, 1974. The breast portion was normal with the back region partly white.

Keith Sutton observed a partial albino American Robin on 27 August, 1976 from Cherry Valley in Cross County.

Frank Stark reported a partial albino American Robin on 2 March, 1977 from Jonesboro, Craighead County. The bird had a white head with some white feathers scattered over the body plumage.

Greta Jernegan reported a partial albino American Robin on 4 April, 1980 from Paragould, Greene County. This bird had some of the normal breast color with most of the other parts white.

General Notes

Sturnidae

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Ben Armstrong reported a partial albino European Starling observed in a flock from his backyard in Jonesboro, Craighead County on 7 January, 1968.

Jan Stern of Pine Bluff reported a complete albino European Starling on 16 May, 1969. This specimen was sent to the A.S.U. museum for mounting.

Georgia Allison reported a partial albino European Starling on 20 December, 1972 from Hoxie, Lawrence County. This bird had white blotches on the head, wings and back.

David Loy reported a dilute albino European Starling feeding with a flock on 21 November, 1975 from Jonesboro, Craighead County.

Keith Sutton reported a partial albino European Starling from Cherry Valley, Cross County on 8 September, 1976. The middle rectrices were white with other plumage of the body of normal color.

A partial albino European Starling was observed at the residence of the writer in Jonesboro on 12 January, 1977. This bird had one white feather in its rectrices.

Addis H. McDonald reported a complete albino European Starling from North Little Rock, Pulaski County. It was a regular visitor to the area from January through March, 1983.

Ploceidae

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

Georgia Dersch observed a female House Sparrow which was a dilute albino. It was uniform cream colored with a patch of brown on its back. The individual was observed on 14 August, 1969 at Walnut Ridge, Lawrence County from the side of the road with another male House Sparrow.

Mrs. Cecil Westbrook of Camden reported a partial albino House Sparrow with the head and back mainly white. The bird was observed on 2 March, 1970.

A partial albino House Sparrow was reported by Marie Locke of Pine Bluff on the 1 and 2 of May, 1972. The entire head was predominantly white with some brown blended in. The chest region had some white feathers and the throat was mainly white.

Avanell Ellis reported a solid white House Sparrow on the 1973 Christmas Bird Count for Jonesboro, Craighead County. The bird was an incomplete albino as it had pigmented eyes.

Garry Waddell reported a complete albino House Sparrow observed near Manila in Mississippi County on 13 April, 1972. It was observed in a flock near an old house along the roadside.

Dr. Dan Timmermann reported a complete albino House Sparrow at his residence in Jonesboro, Craighead County on 7 May and at other times during the month, 1973. The bird was nesting in a birdhouse at his residence.

Mrs. C. C. Mitchell of Delta Lodge of Dumas reported a complete albino House Sparrow 9 June, 1972. This report was sent to the writer by Iola Rea of Little Rock, Pulaski County.

Dr. Tom Bishop reported a complete albino House Sparrow observed during the fall of 1975 near Otwell, Craighead County.

A partial albino House Sparrow was observed on the A.S.U. campus on 6 December, 1981 by Larry Lawrence and Jimmy Metz.

Evalyn Johnson reported two incomplete albino House Sparrows from near Otwell, Craighead County during late November, 1984. These were described as being dingy white with pigmented eyes.

Icteridae

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)

A juvenile dilute Red-winged Blackbird was collected 6 mi e of Paragould, Greene County from a wooded area during the summer of 1969. The bird was shot from a group. The bird was described as being completely white with the exception of a washed out red on the wing coverts.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Pierce reported a partial albino Red-winged Blackbird from Cherry Valley, Cross County. This bird had a black head and the regular red and yellow markings on the wings with the remainder of the body white. This bird was observed several times during 1970 and 1971.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*)

Avanell Ellis reported a partial Common Grackle with white feathers in the tail and a small amount of white in the wings on 14 February, 1968. This bird was observed from Craighead County.

Alice Leasher reported a partial dilute albino Common Grackle from Little Rock on 12 April, 1968. Some of the rectrices were white and the others a dilute or washed out color. There was some white on the wings and the head was of a washed out appearance.

J. O. Tooley reported three partial albino Common Grackles on 6 April, 1969 from Wilmar, Drew County. One grackle had some of the primary feathers of the right wing white. Another partial albino Common Grackle had some of the upper tail coverts white and still another partial albino grackle had all of its tail feathers white.

Jane Henry reported a partial albino Common Grackle with a white tail observed w of Jonesboro, Craighead County during the spring of 1971.

The writer and wildlife management class of A.S.U. observed a partial albino Common Grackle at Big Lake Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi County on 27 April, 1972. This grackle had a white head and mottled neck, other plumage was normal.

Lonnie Coleman observed a partial albino Common Grackle 16 miles w of Forrest City, St. Francis County on 15 April, 1972. This grackle was of normal color except of its white tail.

Franklin Thigpen observed a partial albino Common Grackle 16 miles w of Forrest City, St. Francis County on 1 April, 1972. This grackle had mostly white wings with normal color elsewhere.

Timothy Allison reported a partial albino Common Grackle on 20 January, 1973 at Walnut Ridge, Lawrence County. This grackle had a white head with a few black feathers. Other plumage was normal.

Larry Lawrence reported a partial albino Common Grackle from Beebe on 18 March, 1972. This grackle was observed on the A.S.U. Beebe campus. It was normal color except some of the middle rectrices were white.

The writer observed at his residence in Jonesboro, Craighead County a partial albino Common Grackle with a partial white head during mid-January, 1974.

Lynn Luster reported a partial Common Grackle on 30 April, 1974 in Jonesboro, Craighead County. This grackle had an all white tail.

Mrs. Cozart Ewing reported a partial albino Common Grackle on 6 February, 1976 from North Little Rock. This grackle had a white head and a barring under the throat similar to that of a Killdeer.

J. O. Tooley reported a partial albino Common Grackle from Wilmar, Drew County, observed during the winter of 1976. This grackle had a white head and neck.

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Nancy Cathcart reported a partial albino Common Grackle from Jonesboro, Craighead County on 1 April, 1976. This grackle had a white ring around its neck and had a white tail.

Larry Adams reported a partial albino Common Grackle on 31 March, 1978 from Sedgwick, Lawrence County. This grackle had a white head with parts of the upper wing coverts white.

Dr. Larry Hink and Dr. Larry Olson reported a partial albino Common Grackle from their yards in Jonesboro, Craighead County on 18 and 20 January, 1978. This grackle had a white head and the breast was white with a few black feathers. The white extended down to the bend of the wing.

Ruth Graves reported a partial albino Common Grackle at her residence in Jonesboro, Craighead County during February, 1980. The feathers of the head were mostly white.

The writer observed a partial albino Common Grackle from the highway near the Nettleton Sewage Ponds on 28 March, 1980. This grackle had a white head with several black feathers.

Cheryl Lavers reported an incomplete albino Common Grackle from Farville, Craighead County on 1 February, 1980. This grackle was all white with pigmented eyes and bill.

The writer observed a dilute albino Common Grackle near Berry's Truck Stop out of the city limits of Jonesboro, Craighead County on 9 March, 1981. This grackle appeared as if it was dipped in bleach.

Stephanie Hill reported a partial albino Common Grackle from Lonoke on 10 May, 1982. This grackle had a few white tail feathers.

Alan Posey reported a partial albino Common Grackle observed in Jonesboro, Craighead County during February, 1978. The face area was white as well as the throat with the white extending down the neck. The wing butts were of a dingy white color.

A Common Grackle is in the collection at the A.S.U. museum. This grackle is a partial albino with white head with several black feathers. Collector is not known.

Tom and Mary Manning reported two partial albino Common Grackles observed in Jonesboro, Craighead County during early March, 1983. One grackle had large white areas on both wings. The other Common Grackle had a white head with a few black feathers.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*)

Elbert Hawkins collected a dilute albino Western Meadowlark near Manila, Mississippi County on 4 February, 1971. This specimen was photographed by the writer and described as an extreme dilute bird with barely recognized color pattern (Hanebrink, 1971).

Fringillidae

Northern Junco (Slate-colored Junco), (*Junco hyemalis*)

Margo Hettich reported a partial albino Northern Junco from Route #2, West Fork on 20 March, 1968. This bird had white patches on the crown, shoulders, back and rump.

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*)

Virginia Springer reported an extreme dilute albino Northern Cardinal on 15 March, 1970 from Little Rock, Pulaski County. This bird appeared several times at her feeder. The bill, wings and tail were of a faded pink with other plumage white. The report was forwarded by Roberta Crabtree.

Lattie Ziemann reported two extreme dilute Northern Cardinals from Little Rock, Pulaski County. Both were almost solid white with a few pinkish feathers in the tail and around the neck region. The eyes were pigmented. These two juvenile birds were raised in her back yard and were reported 16 July, 1972.

A. E. Parker of North Little Rock reported a complete albino Northern Cardinal which was in the area for three weeks in July, 1973.

Mrs. Bob Kline reported a partial albino Northern Cardinal (male) from Cherokee Village, Sharp County during March, 1976. The bird visited the feeder several times and was described as having a white belly extending from the neck down to the underwing on the left side.

Helen Taylor reported a partial albino Northern Cardinal (female) as being mostly brown with back and rump white and a washed out pink on the outer tail feathers. This report comes from Little Rock on 7 March, 1978.

Mary Hearn reported a complete albino Northern Cardinal from Little Rock on 30 November, 1979. The bird was observed at her feeder in the yard at various times since June.

Phala Davis of North Little Rock sent a photograph of a dilute female Northern Cardinal observed in the area from March, 1980 to July, 1980. This individual appeared washed out to almost white especially on the back and tail. Photograph on file.

David Mills reported a partial albino Northern Cardinal from Hot Springs, Garland County, observed during December, 1983. The bird had a white head with the exception of a few colored feathers at the tip of the crest. Two colored photographs were sent to the writer and are in the A.S.U. card catalogue.

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I am indebted to many members of the Arkansas Audubon Society, wildlife refuge managers, biology staff from institutions of higher education, hunters and collectors throughout the state. Mrs. Edith Halberg was most helpful in guiding reports to me from the Little Rock area. With the help of so many this study was made possible. I am grateful for their interest and cooperation.

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General Notes

Table 1. A list of Albino Birds recorded from Arkansas

Species	Complete and Incomplete	Dilute	Partial
Mallard	5	4	0
Wild Turkey	0	0	1
Common Bobwhite	1	2	1
Northern Harrier	1	0	0
Red-tailed Hawk	1	0	1
Bald Eagle	0	1	0
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	0	0
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	0	1	0
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	0	0
Pileated Woodpecker	0	0	1
Horned Lark	0	0	1
Purple Martin	1	0	0
Tree Swallow	1	0	1
American Crow	1	1	1
Blue Jay	2	1	4
Northern Mockingbird	2	0	1
Eastern Bluebird	0	1	0
American Robin	4	0	11
Loggerhead Shrike	1	0	0
Cedar Waxwing	1	0	1
Red-winged Blackbird	0	1	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	1	0
Brewer's Blackbird	0	1	0
Common Grackle	5	3	27
Western Meadowlark	0	1	0
European Starling	2	1	7
House Sparrow	13	2	10
Northern Junco	1	0	2
Northern Cardinal	3	5	3
Purple Finch	0	1	0
White-throated Sparrow	1	0	3
Field Sparrow	0	1	0
Song Sparrow	1	0	0
Total Species (33)	49 (31.3%)	28 (17.0%)	79 (50.5%)

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A SYNOPSIS OF THE NEPIDAE OF ARKANSAS

There have been no studies treating specifically of the Nepidae of Arkansas. Pertinent information is either in taxonomic studies which include Arkansas material (Hungerford, 1922) or lists of aquatic macroinvertebrates from particular sites within the state (Harp and Harp, 1980; Farris and Harp, 1982; Huggins and Harp, 1983). The purposes of this paper are to present the first statewide species list, to delineate geographic distributions, and to define preferred habitats for nepid species, insofar as present knowledge will allow. Arkansas species may be identified by using Gonsoulin's (1975) key to Louisiana species.

The information presented has been synthesized from specimens made available by those sources listed in the Acknowledgments, published works, and my personal collections. The museum collections at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville and -Little Rock have been examined. The specimens I collected are preserved in 70% ethanol and housed in the Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Collection of the Arkansas State University Museum of Zoology (ASUMZ).

Nepa apiculata was first reported from Arkansas by Farris and Harp (1982). It is our least common nepid species, being represented by 21 specimens from 12 collections in six counties (Fig. 1). Hungerford (1920) characterized this species as mud loving, most often being collected in mud and trash near water's edge. In Arkansas all collections have been from shallow waters, such as cut-off pools or at stream's edge, but from diverse habitats. It has been collected from bogs (three times), springs (twice), a river, creek, lake and swamp. The collections thus far are from Crowley's Ridge and the Ozark Plateaus. Each habitat has possessed clear water of good quality. I have seen no reference to seasonal occurrence, other than Hungerford's (1920) statement that this species overwinters as an adult in Ithaca, NY. Arkansas specimens have been collected during every month but January, May and June.

Harp and Harp (1980) first reported *Ranatra australis* Hungerford in Arkansas. It is a common and widespread species with 212 individuals having been taken during 81 collections in 27 counties representing all five natural divisions, as defined by Foti (1974) (Fig. 2). Our collections are most often from ponds (40%) with 20% each of the collections occurring in lakes and creeks. Other collections have been from swamps, rivers, sewage lagoons, a bog and a ditch, in order of descending frequency. Gonsoulin (1975) thought this species to be the most common one in Louisiana. He reported its occurrence primarily along the deltaic plains and Mississippi Alluvial Plain, although several collections were made in the higher mixed woods areas of that state. His observations describe our situation well. More collections and more specimens of this species have been taken in Arkansas than any other nepid. Further, while most collections are from the Mississippi Alluvial Plain to date, I expect that this adaptable species can be found in any county. Gonsoulin (1975) in 17 collections found *R. australis* during all months except February, May, September and December. Wilson's (1958) few specimens were collected during September-November in Mississippi. This species has been collected in Arkansas from February through December.