

**SOOTY TERN FROM OPELIKA, ALABAMA****Julian L. Dusi**

Tropical Storm Bill added a bird record of interest for eastern Alabama. On 3 July 2003, following Bill's delivery of large amounts of rain, especially in northern and eastern Alabama, a Sooty Tern, *Sterna fuscata*, was found dead in the parking lot of the Jeffcoat-Trant Mortuary, in Opelika, Lee County, Alabama. Jerome Couch, a former member of the Alabama Ornithological Society, discovered the bird, recognized the importance of the specimen, and saved it for the record.

The author photographed (Fig. 1) and prepared a museum skin of the tern and it has been placed in the Auburn University Museum as specimen A-353. The tern was an adult female, with a total length of 360 mm, a wing length of 290 mm, and a tarsus length of 29 mm.

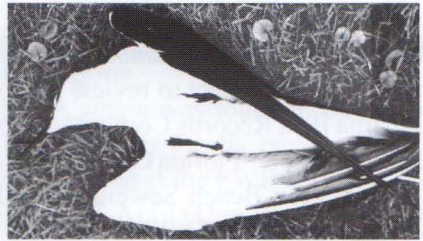
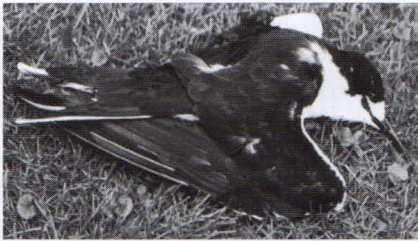


FIGURE 1. Photographs of dorsal and ventral sides of a Sooty Tern, *Sterna fuscata*, that was found in Opelika, Lee County, Alabama, on 3 July 2003 (photos by author).

**Julian L. Dusi**, Department of Biological Sciences, Auburn University, AL 36849-5407