



General Field Notes

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HDP-69

Anhinga Breeding at Springfield, S.C.

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On 20 July 1969 while visiting the Springfield, S.C., heronry in northern Barnwell County, Frederick Post, William Hastings, and I found a nest of the Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*). It was near the top of a 10 meter (30 foot) high Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). As we approached, the two young flew from the nest and plopped into the water, and were obscured from our view by the vegetation. The adult birds were sailing overhead. I did not find the Anhinga nesting in this colony in 1968.

I know of no breeding records for either Aiken or Barnwell Counties. *South Carolina Bird Life* (1949) does not clearly delineate the breeding range of the Anhinga in South Carolina.

Rattlesnake Predation on the Clapper Rail

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On 27 May 1967, while walking between Alligator Bay and the beach on the northern end of Topsail Island, in Onslow County, N.C., I collected a Canebrake Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus atricaudatus*). It measured 4 feet 2 inches in length and 5.75 inches in girth. Dissection revealed the upper mandible of a rail comparable in size to that of either a Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*) or a King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) and the fur and partially digested bones of a small rodent. Preference for salt marshes by the Clapper Rail indicated that it was probably this species that was taken by the rattlesnake.

Bent (US Natl. Mus., Bull. 135, 1926) states that the enemies of the Clapper Rail (all subspecies included) are hawks, owls, minks, raccoons, wild cats, turtles, fish, man,