

It had obviously followed a thicket of raspberry vines from the dense growth along the creek to the shrubbery near the walk. After it slowly and cautiously worked its way through the fallen leaves across the walk and driveway, it flew into the tangle of briars and weeds on the high bank back of the house and was lost from sight. I tried to find it in this growth but was unsuccessful.

[This appears to represent the third observation of this species in North Carolina and the only record outside of Wake County. See the article by Jones (*Chat*, 30:30) for the account of the Wake County records.--DEPT. ED.]

Briefs for the Files

Compiled by JAMES F. PARNELL

Common Loon, one was found at Lake Benson near Raleigh, N.C., between 6 and 27 December 1969 by Robert Hader.

Red-throated Loon, one was at Lake Wheeler near Raleigh on 11 November and 6 December 1969, Robert Hader.

Red-necked Grebe, individuals were observed at Topsail Island, N.C., on 13 and 24 January 1970 by Gilbert Grant.

Horned Grebe, J. Merrill Lynch noted an interesting build up of grebes during late winter on Roanoke Rapids Lake north of Roanoke Rapids, N.C. During December, January, and February numbers remained generally low. In late February numbers increased and were generally high throughout March. As many as 35 birds were observed on several occasions in late March. This appears to represent a build up preparatory to northward migration.

Common Egret, an individual seen on 4 January 1970 at Raleigh was most unusual for the winter season, Harry and Edmund LeGrand.

Cattle Egret, one was late at Springfield in Barnwell County, S.C., on 16 December 1969 by Bill Albritton and reported by Will Post.

Glossy Ibis, six were seen inland flying over Tarboro, N.C., on 19 March 1970 by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Marrow.

Peregrine Falcon, one was seen on 24 January 1970 at Topsail Island by Gilbert Grant.

Pigeon Hawk, inland an individual was seen at Mason Farm near Chapel Hill, N.C., on 11 January 1970 by Robert Teulings. One was also seen near Columbia, S.C., on 18 January 1970 by Bruce Mack.

Spotted Sandpiper, two wintered at Whispering Pines, N.C. They were recorded on 22 and 24 December 1969 and 30 January 1970 by Jay Carter.

American Avocet, a flock of approximately 100 birds seen on 29 March 1970 just south of the Roanoke Island causeway by Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Aycock Jr. indicates that the "outer bank" population may move some distance from the usual observation sites at Bodie and Pea Islands. Three avocets were also seen on 11 January 1970 at Hilton Head, S.C., by Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Rousler and reported by Caroline Newhall.

House Wren, one seen on 10 January 1970 at Umstead State Park just west of Raleigh appears to be the first published January record for Wake County. The bird was also seen as late as 28 February, Harry and Edmund LeGrand.

Catbird, one apparently wintered at a lake near Vass, N.C. It was seen as late as 15 February 1970, Jay Carter.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, one was late at Raleigh on 23 November 1969, Harry and Edmund LeGrand; as was a single bird about 40 miles SE of Columbia, S.C., in the Santee River swamps on 27 December 1969, John Cely.

Solitary Vireo, one seen at Umstead State Park near Raleigh on 3 January 1970 was unusual at this season, Harry LeGrand.

American Redstart, a female was seen building a nest in the Santee River swamp about 40 miles SE of Columbia, S.C., on 14 May 1966 by John Cely. This is one of very few records of this species nesting in the coastal plain of the Carolinas.

Whistling Swan, there were several inland sightings this winter. A flock of 8 remained on a lake near Fuquay, N.C., from late November 1969 to 16 March 1970, Donna Goodwin. At Raleigh two remained on Lake Benson from late November 1969 to 7 March 1970, Robert Hader. Two immatures were at Whispering Pines, N.C., on 25 and 27 January 1970, and a third bird was there on 7 February 1970, Jay Carter. Two birds were also on Eastwood Lake at Chapel Hill, N.C., on 15 February, John P. Filley.

European Widgeon, a male was studied carefully in a good light for about 10 minutes in a flock of about 250 American Widgeon on 1 February 1970 in New River at Sneads Ferry, N.C., by Gilbert Grant.

Canvasback, this duck was much more common along the North Carolina coast than usual this winter. An estimated 7,000 to 10,000 were seen near Aurora, N.C., on 10 January 1970, James F. Parnell. At Wilmington, N.C., flocks of 100 to 200 were regularly seen on the Cape Fear River, James F. Parnell. Inland a flock of 35 was found near Raleigh on 21 March 1970 by Robert Hader.

Greater Scaup, up to 12 were found regularly throughout the winter at Lake Raleigh near Raleigh by Robert Hader. They were also more common than usual at Wilmington, James F. Parnell.

Common Merganser, one was seen inland near Raleigh on 17 January 1970, and two were there between 1 and 21 February 1970, Robert Hader, Harry and Edmund LeGrand. A single female was seen on Thaggard's Lake near Southern Pines on 22 and 23 December by Jay Carter.

Rough-legged Hawk, one was studied carefully on 24 January 1970 at the north end of Topsail Island, N.C., by Gilbert Grant.

Yellowthroat, a banded male was present at Mason Farm near Chapel Hill on 7 December 1969 and 17 January 1970, J. O. Pullman. A male was also found at Southern Pines on 22 December 1969 by Jay Carter, and one was seen at Raleigh on 22 November 1969 by Robert Hader. Such winter records are unusual inland.

Dickcissel, one was seen in a yard in Whitakers, N.C., on 20 March 1970 by Mrs. H.M. Browder Jr. One was also at a feeder in Campobello, S.C., on 17 December 1969, Mrs. Walter Gibson and reported by Mrs. Carol Grenell; and one was at Southern Pines on 4 March, Jay Carter.

Common Redpoll, a single bird was seen at the feeder of Robert Ruiz at Swannanoa, N.C., on 3 February 1970. One was also present at Hertford, N.C., during January 1970, David Cox Jr.

White-crowned Sparrow, a single bird at Greensboro, N.C., between 1 and 5 May 1970 represents a late spring record, Katheryn Lambeth.

Snow Buntings, a flock of 25 was seen near Beaufort, N. C., on 13 December 1969 by Harry LeGrand, Thomas L. Quay, and others.

CORRECTION: In the December 1969 *Chat* the Upland Plover records from Southern Pines are given incorrectly. The item should state that 2 were seen on 24 March and 1 on 26 April.--JFP

New AFN Regional Editor

Robert P. Teulings, immediate past president of CBC, is the new Southern Atlantic Coast regional editor for *Audubon Field Notes*. He will also compile the Briefs for the Files section of *Chat*. Dr. Teulings' address is Route 2, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514. As regional editor he succeeds James F. Parnell, who was recently named chairman of the Department of Biology at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Dr. Parnell will continue to edit the General Field Notes for *Chat*.