

Horned Owl does compete for nesting sites. Even in these cases the owls fledge about mid-March, and the nests may then be used by the Ospreys.

An attempt to check on clutch size was made in 1969 using a mirror and aluminum conduit pipe. Unstable boats, however, made this process unsatisfactory for detailed counts. The usual clutch was two or three eggs. It was noted that eggs seemed to disappear from the nests late in the incubation period. Based on our experience with other birds, thin shells were suspected. This factor has been observed in the Charleston area in the Bald Eagle, the Black Skimmer, the Gull-billed Tern, the Barn Owl, and the Brown Pelican.

From about 35 active nests there were only three known fledglings. Very rough conditions around some nests made a complete check impossible, but numbers of fledglings were obviously very low. This indicates that the Osprey in the Santee area is in serious danger and may not be able to sustain itself in the local breeding colonies.

## **Summer Records of the Raven in Oconee County, S.C.**

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Sprunt and Chamberlain (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1948) state that the Raven (*Corvus corax*) is known as a rare permanent resident in Oconee County, but their most recent sightings from this area were of a single bird in March 1935 and of 3 individuals in 1936. Furthermore, a check through volumes 1-33 of *The Chat* reveals no additional observations from this region.

On 12 June 1969 I noted a total of 6 Ravens near the Walhalla Fish Hatchery in Oconee County, S.C. The birds were seen and heard along Route 107 and the Fish Hatchery access road at elevations ranging from 2,600 to 3,000 feet. The main attraction for these birds appears to be the recently constructed garbage dump on Burrell's Mountain, about 100 yards W of Route 107 along Chattooga Ridge (3,000 feet). This open dump is utilized by the Forest Service for disposal of picnic ground wastes and by the Fish Hatchery for removal of dead trout. The Ravens have quickly learned of the feast to be had. Laurie W. Smith of the US Fish and Wildlife Service informed me that at least one pair of Ravens have been present in the area each season for the past 30 years, but the creation of the dump some 5 years ago resulted in a marked increase in the local population of the species. Smith reports seeing as many as 15 Ravens around the dump at one time, although smaller flocks are the usual rule. The species has been rumored to nest in the mountains of nearby Macon and Jackson Counties in North Carolina; and it seems likely that some of these birds are among those attracted to the Fish Hatchery area. On subsequent trips to this region, I noted 8 birds on 17 June, 4 on 18 June, 6 on 21 June, and 9 on 25 June.

## **Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins In Great Smoky Mountains, Summer 1969**

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Two finches that are generally regarded as being of erratic and unpredictable occurrence in the Great Smoky Mountains are the Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) and the Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*). During the summer of 1969 I had the opportunity to observe these birds on numerous occasions. Based on information given in *Notes on the Birds of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Vicinity* (Stupka, 1963) I feel that the following observations are noteworthy.