



General Field Notes

James F. Parnell

Destruction of the Rich's Inlet, N.C., Heronry

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The Rich's Inlet heron colony is located about 3 miles SE of Hampstead in Pender County, N.C., and is described by Funderburg (*Chat*, 23:17-18, 1960).

This was a formerly productive colony. Funderburg and Quay (*Jour. Elisha Mitchell Sci. Soc.*, 75:13-18, 1959) found 17 Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) nests, 40 Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) nests, 105 Common Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) nests, 132 Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*) nests, and 198 Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*) nests there in 1955. Funderburg (*Chat*, 23:17-18, 1960) found an average of 20 pairs of Green Herons, 35 pairs of Little Blue Herons, 50 pairs of Common Egrets, 125 pairs of Snowy Egrets, and 150 pairs of Louisiana Herons in this heronry.

Jack Dermid, James F. Parnell, and I visited the colony on 4 July 1969. We found about 25 pairs of Green Herons nesting in this once-thriving colony. No other species of long-legged waders were observed in the vicinity. A summer home had been built adjacent to the nesting area and a path had been cut through the site.

Similar destruction of other colonies can be prevented if annual surveys are conducted and conservation groups are kept abreast of developments that may cause harmful changes in the habitat.

Goshawk at Franklin, N.C.

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Following low temperatures during most all of January and February (zero on 5 January), four snows piled up on each preceding one and kept a blanket of snow on the

north side of the house until after 10 March. During this period a Goshawk came into the yard.

I was standing by the kitchen window at 5 PM on 2 March 1969 when a large gray-backed hawk with a long tail darted into the dense, thorny oleagnus shrub—about 8 feet from where I stood. After a moment or two it came out and stood in an open area, roughly 4 by 4 feet, from which snow had been cleared to give the grain-eating birds a place to feed. It faced me for only a minute or so, then flew around the corner of the house in the direction from which it came. As it turned the corner I noted the long grayish, rounded tail with narrow white edge, and the muted darker bands which would not have been distinct at a much greater distance.

As it stood facing me I realized it was a hawk I was not familiar with, so I took note of all the details I could for there was not time to reach for binoculars. None were needed since it was less than 8 feet from me when it stood facing me. It had white underparts with no markings; fierce, baleful orange eyes; and a round, flat black cap on top of its head. I was impressed by the bright yellow, powerful looking feet and legs. The legs were longer and stronger looking than any hawk I know, and it had equally big, strong looking feet. It was the personality of the bird that made it so different from all other hawks of my acquaintance. It stood tall and fearless, glaring fiercely toward the house, completely master of all it surveyed.

I have had Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks in my yard (and dead ones have been brought to me for identification) but this hawk was definitely much larger and fiercer looking than any of them. Numerous Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks have been in the same shrub, both male and female, so that I have some basis for comparison. Crows have also been in my yard, but this hawk was almost twice the size of a crow. After carefully checking hawks in bird guides, I was convinced that I had seen a Goshawk.

[The account above appears to be the first published record of this northern hawk in North Carolina. The species will now be placed on the hypothetical list, awaiting the confirmation of additional records. Most southern occurrences of the Goshawk are during periods of severe winter weather.—DEPT. ED.]

Nesting of the Osprey Near Georgetown, S.C.

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For several years S.C. Langston and I have, in conjunction with our Bald Eagle studies, checked the large colony of Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) on the Santee Club near Georgetown, S.C. as well as a few scattered nests in surrounding areas.

An exact picture of breeding success in the Santee area is impossible as some areas are inaccessible. We do know that this club contains what is probably the largest colony in South Carolina. All nests are strictly protected by Mr. Cody, the club manager. It is also known that the nesting area is relatively free from any direct application of pesticides. This does not, however, apply to the feeding habitat.

The backwater at the club has a very long history and is recorded in the ornithological literature for its colonies of White Ibis, herons, egrets, and Anhingas. It is quite possible that the Osprey used the site even before the above mentioned species. Nearly all nests are located in cypress trees growing in water between 3 and 10 feet in depth. It is probable that predation is minor. Fish Crows are present but no case of actual predation has been noted.

A total of about 60 nest structures were found in 1969 but only 25 to 30 pairs of birds were present. Single birds did not seem to use the site for loafing. The Great