

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

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.