

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Compiled by ROBERT P. TEULINGS
Route 2, Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514
(All dates 1970)

- COMMON LOON - Single stragglers were found at Ocracoke Inlet, N.C., by Henry Armistead on 18 June and at Wrightsville Beach, N.C., on 7 August by Frances Needham.
- RED-THROATED LOON - Very late individuals were seen at Wrightsville Beach, N. C., on 24 June by Frances Needham and at Cherry Grove Beach, S.C., on 14 July by Royce Hough.
- HORNED GREBE - One was late at Wrightsville Beach, N.C., on 10 June, Frances Needham.
- BROWN PELICAN - 68 adults with 31 unfledged young were counted in a nesting colony on North Rock Island inside Ocracoke Inlet on the North Carolina coast, 7 July, by Roger Steiner.
- GANNET - On 27 February hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Gannets were seen off Bodie Island, Pea Island, and Ocracoke by Dr. and Mrs. R. R. Tasker and Helmut C. Mueller.
- LOUISIANA HERON - One at McKinney Hatchery near Southern Pines, N.C., on 12 August was an unusual summer visitor for that area, Jay Carter.
- GLOSSY IBIS - 215 were counted near the Bodie Island, N.C., lighthouse on 15 June by Henry Armistead; 60 were seen in flight over Wrightsville Beach, N.C., 20 July by Dorothy Earle.
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL - One was present at Hilton Head Island, S.C., from 16 July to 6 August, far north of its usual range, Nancy Butler.
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL - An adult and a brood of eight downy young were seen at Bodie Island, N.C., on 18 June, Henry Armistead.
- COMMON SCOTER - A late individual was sighted on North River near Beaufort, N.C., on 18 June by John Fussell, Tom Wade, and C.J. Spears.
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - A young bird not yet capable of flight was seen near Sneads Ferry, N.C., on 6 July by Gilbert Grant.
- BLACK VULTURE - Nesting was observed at Wm. B. Umstead State Park near Raleigh, N.C., this summer by Harry LeGrand, an uncommon record for Wake County. Two young were successfully fledged in early July.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE - As many as 15 were seen at Magnolia Gardens, S.C., in late June and early July, T.A. Beckett III.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - One sighted along the coast at Otway, Carteret Co., N.C., on 22 June was very unusual for summer, Tom Wade and John Fussell.
- BALD EAGLE - A pair nesting at Hilton Head Island, S.C., successfully fledged two young, as reported by Orion Hack. Eugene Pond recorded sightings of an adult eagle on 10 June and an immature on 25 June near Beaufort, N.C.
- MARSH HAWK - One seen 29 June on the coast near Stacy, N. C., was well south of its usual breeding range, John Thomspson, C.J. Spears, and John Fussell.
- KING RAIL - An adult and three chicks were found at Huntington Beach State Park, Georgetown Co., S.C., on 4 August by Oliver Ferguson and Lewis Patton.
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK - One found near Sumter, S.C., on 19 July was an uncommon summer visitor for that locality, Eli Parker and Robert Teulings.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW - A single bird was observed closely on Ocracoke Island, N.C., 18 June, by Henry Armistead.
- KNOT - Late spring and summer sightings were recorded at West Onslow Beach, N.C., where 30 were seen on 31 May, 20 on 15 June, and 1 on 6 July by Gilbert Grant. Ten Knots were also found on Masonboro Island near Wilmington, N.C., on 31 July by Frances Needham.



SOOTY TERN
Charleston, S.C.
July 1970

Photo by
John Henry Dick

- BLACK-NECKED STILT** - Although no nesting records were reported this season, a single bird was seen near Georgetown, S.C., on 4 August by Oliver W. Ferguson and 10 were sighted on Bodie Island, N.C., on 5 August by Dan F. Keeney.
- AMERICAN AVOCET** - 30 were seen at Bodie Island on 5 August by Dan F. Keeney.
- FORSTER'S TERN** - Significant numbers of adults and immatures were reported from late May through July in the North River, New River, and Alligator Bay areas along the North Carolina coast by John Fussell and Gilbert Grant.
- SOOTY TERN** - A pair were sighted on 30 June and again several times during July on Devcaux Bank near Charleston, S.C., far north of their normal summer range, T.A. Beckett, Stanley Langston, and John H. Dick.
- TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER** - Four pairs were present this summer in a wooded swamp near North Wilkesboro, N.C., where breeding has been recorded almost every year since 1956, Wendell P. Smith.
- PURPLE MARTIN** - A large post-breeding build-up was noted at Durham, N.C., where several thousand were counted in a roost on 23 July, Mrs. Paul S. Payne and Bea Lemen.
- SOLITARY VIREO** - In Wake County, N.C., at least 15 singing males were present through the summer at Wm. B. Umstead State Park; one nest was found by Harry LeGrand. Nesting occurred again at Southern Pines where 5 pairs were observed by Jay Carter in Weymouth Woods Nature Preserve.
- WARBLERS** - Field studies by John Fussell revealed *Ovenbirds* present through the summer in Croatan National Forest in the coastal plain near Morehead City, N.C. Fussell also recorded repeated sightings of a female *Black-and-white Warbler* and a pair of *Worm-eating Warblers* during the period from early June through July. All three species are regarded as scarce or rare breeders in the locality mentioned.
- SCARLET TANAGER** - A singing male observed near Sumter on 18 July was an unusual mid-summer record for the S.C. coastal plain, Evelyn Dabbs, Robert and Elizabeth Teulings.
- PAINTED BUNTING** - Rhoda Koshak observed a pair feeding young at Washington in Beaufort Co., N.C., in early June, as reported by Geraldine Cox. This appears to be the northernmost breeding record for the state.

SONG SPARROW - Observations were again reported of Song Sparrows summering eastward of their normal breeding range in the N.C. piedmont. A male was found singing on territory in late May at Lake Raleigh in Wake County by Robert Hader, and a small colony was apparently nesting near Durham where three singing males were heard in mid-June by Robert and Elizabeth Teulings.

SNOW BUNTING - A flock of about 12 was seen at the NE end of Ocracoke Island, 28 February by Dr. and Mrs. R. R. Tasker and Helmut C. Mueller.



CAROLINA BIRDS AND BIRDERS

(Continued from Page 100)

These books on attracting birds are excellent but some plants suggested are impractical for the Charlotte area.

The Book of Bird Life - A. A. Allen (one chapter on attracting)

Audubon Guild To Attracting Birds - John H. Baker

Songbirds In Your Garden - John K. Terres

Place bird houses not less than 25 feet apart away from trees preferably on 8 foot pipe driven 2 feet into the ground. Place boxes during winter or early spring so they can weather before a nesting time. Some species nest several times so late boxes may catch a later nesting. Do not clean houses in summer. Wait until November, remove nesting material, clean and spray with Bird House Powder from any pet shop. Carolina Wrens and Screech Owls begin to nest in February; chickadees, bluebirds, flickers, Downy Woodpeckers, and Tufted Titmice in March; House Wrens and Great Crested Flycatchers in April.

We use one size box, placed not less than 25 feet apart, 6 feet from ground on iron pipe away from trees, for bluebirds, House Wrens, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, Downy Woodpeckers and Great Crested Flycatchers. The size is 4 or 5 inches square inside, 9 inches high, hole $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter placed two inches from top of box. Have a removable top or side for cleaning purposes. Never make hole less than $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter.

Flickers require a box $6\frac{1}{2}$ X $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches square by 16 to 24 inches high, hole $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter placed 2 inches from top. Use rough lumber which facilitates the climb from nest to exit hole. We have had Screech Owls nest in this size box.

Never put more than one nesting compartment to a box except for Purple Martins. They nest in colonies and each compartment should be 6 X 6 inches square, 6 inches high, hole $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter placed 1 inch above floor, box placed 15 to 20 feet above ground in open space near water.

Wood Ducks need a box 12 inches square by 18 to 24 inches high, hole $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter placed 12 to 16 inches above floor. Box should be 10 to 20 feet above ground near water. Pennsylvania Game Commission perfected a metal predator proof Wood Duck box and specifications are in *Birds of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County*.

[The above material was adapted from Mrs. Clarkson's very attractive and informative check-list, *Birds of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County*, which was revised and reprinted in 1970 for benefit of Mecklenburg Audubon Society.—ED.]