



General Field Notes

James F. Parnell

An Undescribed Heronry at Swansboro, N.C.

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The Swansboro heronry was first discovered in 1969 by scanning the islands in the White Oak River near Swansboro, N.C. It is located about 300 yards S of the point where NC Hwy 24 crosses the White Oak River at the boundary between Onslow and Carteret Counties. The island appears to lie just inside Onslow County and is about 21 miles W of the Starvation Island heronry at Morehead City. It is accessible only by boat, which can be launched nearby.

The island is about 3 acres in size with the periphery consisting almost entirely of cord grass (*Spartina alterniflora*). Trees, mostly waxmyrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), and willow (*Salix* sp.), cover the higher ground which is less than an acre in size. This colony appears to have been active for only two or three years prior to its discovery in 1969.

I counted 30 Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) nests, 25 Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) nests, 40 Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) nests, 25 Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*) nests, and 60 Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*) nests there on 23 June 1969. No Common Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) or Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) nests were found here although Common Egrets fed in the immediate vicinity.

White-fronted Goose near Raleigh, N.C.

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12 April 1970

On the morning of 1 March 1970 while observing Canada Geese and ducks on Lake Wheeler near Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina, we saw a full-plumaged