

## Forster's Tern Feeding Young In Pamlico County, N.C.

MARVIN TURNAGE JR.  
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26 July 1970

During much of June and early July 1970, I observed the habits of several Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) in Bay and Neuse Rivers in Pamlico County, N.C.

The Forster's Terns were first seen on 9 June 1970 near Bayboro. Four terns were present. Three were in breeding plumage, and one was an immature bird. On 10 June an adult was seen to feed the immature bird on two occasions. Feeding was accomplished by the adult bird's hovering over the immature bird and passing fish to it.

During the first week of July 13 Forster's Terns were seen in a flock over the Neuse River near Pamlico, N.C.

[Although no nests were found, the occurrence of adult birds feeding young in Pamlico County is further evidence of the breeding of this bird in North Carolina. The first recent evidence of nesting was reported by Grant and Fussell (*Chat*, 34:37-38) from Onslow and Carteret Counties.—DEPT. ED.]

## Summer Records of the Saw-whet Owl At Mt. Mitchell, N.C.

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14 August 1970

On the night of 13 June 1970, I conducted a survey for Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) in portions of the Black Mountains between Steeps Gap and Mt. Mitchell, Yancey County, N.C. At 10:30 PM a single bird responded to my whistling and began cooing from a mixed grove of red spruce (*Picea rubens*), Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*), and yellow birch (*Betula lutea*) on Wilson Ridge at an elevation of 6,240 feet. The ideal, calm wind conditions permitted precise localization of the source of the ringing, bell-like notes; and the owl was still calling when I left the area at 11:15 PM.

Subsequently, on the night of 19 June 1970, Bryan Taylor (pers. com), Chief Naturalist for the North Carolina State Parks, was whistling for owls at the campground area in Mt. Mitchell State Park. At approximately 10 PM a Saw-whet Owl began calling nearby in the same area where I recorded the bird during the previous week. Taylor and Hollis J. Rogers listened to the owl for some time but were unable to actually see the bird. A third summer record came on the night of 10 July 1970, when Park Ranger Clyde Hopson (pers. com.) spotted an adult Saw-whet Owl in the Restaurant parking lot (elevation 6,200 feet). The bird lit in front of Hopson's car and was observed in the headlights at a distance of less than 30 feet. Attempts to capture the bird were unsuccessful, and the owl flushed when the car stopped.

Previous records of the Saw-whet Owl from the Black Mountains have been reported by T.W. Simpson (*Chat*, 21:89-90, 1957), D.A. Adams (*Chat*, 23:66-67, 1959), W.A. West (*Chat*, 30:109, 1966), and M.B. Simpson Jr. (*Chat*, 32:83-89, 1968).

## A Brewster's Warbler at Chapel Hill, N.C.

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22 July 1970

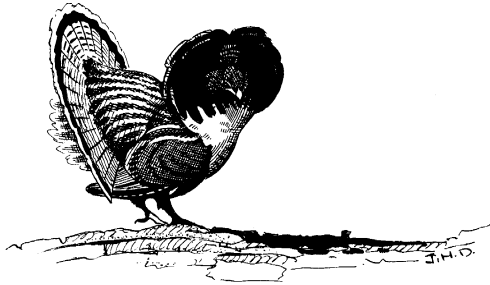
On 26 April 1970 a hybrid Brewster's Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera* x *V. Pinus*) was identified just southeast of Chapel Hill, N.C., by Oliver Ferguson. Later on the same date, I passed the site repeatedly and found the bird on four occasions over a 6-hour period, including one close study with 7X binoculars at a distance of 30 feet at eye level.

These observations were made along Morgan Creek at the Mason Farm, a wildlife preserve of the University of North Carolina, adjacent to the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

Plumage characters included a bright yellow crown, thin black eye line, entirely white underparts, and a diffuse yellow wing patch with no clear division into separate bars. The song, given repeatedly, was typical of the Golden-winged Warbler (*V. chrysoptera*).

The above comprises a first record for the Brewster's Warbler on Mason Farm, and this hybrid is quite scarce in our area. A recent comprehensive summary by R.J. Hader (*Chat*, 33:53-71) of many years of observations at Raleigh, N.C., 25 miles to the southeast, gives just two records, for 1888 and 1963 respectively. There is a recent report from Moore County by Jay Carter (*Chat*, 33:27). For the State as a whole, the 1959 revision of *Birds of North Carolina* gives three additional dates, for Chapel Hill, Montreat and Greensboro respectively.

It is interesting that the dates of the seven records noted above fall within rather narrow ranges, 26 April and 1 and 3 May in spring and 25, 28, and 29 August and 6 September (1888) in the fall.



## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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

**GREATER SHEARWATER** - One was seen floating and preening in the surf off Nags Head, N.C., on 24 October by Carl W. Carlson.

**CATTLE EGRET** - Three were found inland near New London in Stanly Co., N.C., on 16 October by Vivian Whitlock, and 6 were found near Durham, N.C., on the late date of 18 November by Mrs. Paul S. Payne.

**BLUE GOOSE** - Four were seen at Creech's Pond in northern York Co., S.C., on 24 October by William and Flo Cobey. One was present for a month after 9 November at Hilton Head Island, S.C., as reported by Stewart Rush and Caroline Newhall. One was at Lake Edgar Brown, Barnwell Co., S.C., on 2 and 3 November, Gerald E. Knighton.

**SURF SCOTER** - An unusual inland occurrence was recorded at Lake Wylie near Charlotte, N.C., where an immature male was found on 18 October by William and Flo Cobey.

**GOLDEN EAGLE** - Two were seen at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston, S.C., on 21 November by T.A. Beckett.