



General Field Notes

James F. Parnell

Bald Eagle at Raleigh, N.C.

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31 March 1971

An immature Bald Eagle was seen at Lake Benson, about 7 miles S of Raleigh, N.C., on several occasions in early February 1971. It was first observed on 6 February 1971 by T.L. Quay and R.J. Hader, who saw it in flight and then perched in a large pine. Mottled white feathers near the base of the tail were noted as it flew, though it was otherwise completely dark. On the following day, Harry and Edmund LeGrand saw it at the same location, and Mike Browne found it again on 10 February. However, a thorough search of the area by the N.C. State University ornithology class on 12 February and subsequently for several weeks failed to locate the bird.

The Bald Eagle has been recorded at Raleigh on numerous occasions in September and in late April or early May, though none have been seen in the last 5 years. There is a record for 11 December 1944 (*Chat*, 9:44), and Funderburg's Ph.D. thesis* (N.C. State University Library) indicates that one was seen 11 February 1945.

Lake Benson, the site of the current observation, is an approximately 500-acre reservoir surrounded by pine and mixed hardwoods and having an extensive swampy area at its head. The wintering waterfowl population includes 500 to 600 American Coots, several hundred Ring-necked and Ruddy Ducks as well as smaller numbers of surface feeding ducks, and Pied-billed Grebes.

* Funderburg, John B. "The Populations, Habitat Relations and Ecological Changes in the Winter Birds of the Raleigh, N.C. Region 1880-1959", Ph.D. thesis, N.C. State University Library, 1959.

Breeding Record of a Piping Plover On Shackleford Banks in North Carolina

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On 5 and 6 June 1970 Thomas L. Quay, Frank L. Chapman, and I conducted a population survey on bird nesting islands in Carteret County, N.C., by means of boat and airplane. One of our boat stops on 5 June was on Shackleford Banks, near Beaufort