



BIRD WATCHERS'

# Roundtable

## CBC Fall Meeting on Outer Banks

The 1971 fall meeting of the Carolina Bird Club was held on the North Carolina Outer Banks the weekend of 24-26 September. Headquarters for the meeting was the Carolinian Motor Hotel in Nags Head. Approximately 150 people registered, and among them were 25 members of the Cape Henry Bird Club at Norfolk, Virginia. On Friday night James F. Parnell, from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and the General Field Notes editor for *The Chat*, gave a slide program orienting the birders with the Outer Banks and some of the birds characteristic of the region.

Saturday field trips were led by several CBC members familiar with the area to the Bodie Island lighthouse pond and vicinity and to the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, particularly to North Pond, a large impoundment 3 miles S of Oregon Inlet. Some birders went on their own to the Cape Hatteras area. Saturday was a clear and rather windy day, but it was obvious even by early morning that a heavy passerine migration was in progress. Warblers were calling overhead everywhere. The most common was the Palm Warbler, but Cape Mays and American Redstarts were also quite numerous. Most of the birders seemed to concentrate at North Pond, where Jim Parnell found and photographed a Reddish Egret, the second record for the state. This bird was well observed by a large number of people. Also in the immediate area were six or seven Buff-breasted Sandpipers feeding on a dry flats area just north of the pond. Another highlight of the day was a pair of Hudsonian Godwits seen at the south end of the pond. Two other exciting finds on Saturday were an Oregon Junco seen by Robert Ake at Avon and 2 Black Rails seen crossing a muddy channel in a marsh at Bodie Island by Lou Overman and Kitty Kosh.

By the time the Saturday evening program came around, most of the birders had finished and unusually successful day of field work, and nearly everyone had added one or more lifers to their lists. The slide program for the night was a study of Osprey nesting populations in the Chesapeake Bay area by Mitchell A. Byrd of the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va. (In my opinion Dr. Byrd's program was one of the best ever presented at a CBC meeting.) Following the slide program was the eagerly awaited species countdown. A remarkable total of 165 species were reported seen on the coast from Kitty Hawk to Hatteras, and seven more species were seen on Sunday for a grand total of 172. In addition to the rarities mentioned above were: nine species of hawks, including several Peregrine Falcons and Pigeon Hawks; 29 species of shorebirds, including 100+ Piping Plovers and at least 15 Long-billed Dowitchers and 30 Stilt Sandpipers; a

Western Kingbird; a Philadelphia Vireo; 22 species of warblers, including Nashville, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Wilson's; dozens of Baltimore Orioles; and one or two Lark Sparrows.

This CBC meeting was certainly one of the best ever held. The fellowship was warm, the programs were informative, and the birding at a CBC gathering has never been more exciting. Robert J. Hader, who made the arrangements for this meeting, did an excellent job, and CBC President Pat Probst handled the business session with commendable efficiency. It is hoped that the CBC can meet at Nags Head again in the near future.—HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

### **Auklets**

During 1971 several CBC members published papers and notes in *Auk*, the quarterly journal of the American Ornithologists' Union. The editor is Oliver L. Austin, who wrote *Birds of the World* (1961), beautifully illustrated by Arthur Singer, and edited the three-volume 1968 finch addition to Bent's *Life Histories*.

"A Field Study of the Wrenthrush, *Zeledonia coronata*" (*Auk*, 88:1-20) is by James H. Hunt of Raleigh. Jim did the field work in Central America while he was in graduate school at Louisiana State University. He is now working toward a doctorate at the University of California.

"Audubon's Warbler in North Carolina" is the title of Betty Davis' note in the October 1971 issue of *Auk* (88:924). Betty trapped the bird in her yard at Rocky Mount, N. C., on 28 February 1970. Roxie Collie Laybourne identified the specimen as an immature male of the Pacific coast race. This appears to be only the second authentic record of *Dendroica auduboni auduboni* for eastern North America.

On the same page with Betty's note is an article by Maurice Broun, the Hawk Mountain man, about seeing House Sparrows feeding at night on moths and other insects attracted by floodlights at an airport in Bangkok, Thailand. Fred L. Johns (*Chat*, 29:114) made the same discovery in Raleigh's Cameron Village. Jack and Eloise Potter have seen Killdeer feeding around lights in the parking lot at K-Mart on Six Forks Road in Raleigh. Do you readers know any other examples of this type of behavior?

"Wood Ducks nesting in chimneys" is the title of Paul A. Stewart's recent note in *Auk* (88:425). Dr. Stewart, who lives at Oxford, N. C., and is associated with the Agricultural Experiment Station, wrote his Ph.D. thesis on the Wood Duck and continues to be interested in the species' behavior and management. He is making final revisions on a paper scheduled for publication in *Chat* this year, "The Plight of Wood Ducks in the Carolinas."—EFP

### **A Carolinian in Zambia**

Dale Lewis, whose "Summer Birds at a Coastal Marsh Impoundment in North Carolina" appeared in *Chat* in December 1970, recently arrived at Lochinvar Ranch in Zambia, Africa, to spend a year doing research for the Zoology Department of the University of Michigan under grants from the University and National Geographic Society. Dale's work will deal primarily with ornithology. The 100-square-mile ranch is part of Kafue Flats, one of the richest game reserves in Africa. The Raleigh native's present address is Box 12, Lochinvar Ranch, Monze, Zambia, Africa.

### **That's Our Doug Pratt!**

Watch for announcements of the forthcoming publication of *The Mammals of Louisiana* by George H. Lowery Jr. CBC's own Doug Pratt is currently preparing about a dozen paintings for color plates plus skull drawings and pen-and-ink sketches to illustrate the book. Club members who have watched Doug's rapid growth as both artist and naturalist are pleased that the excellence of his work is recognized by Dr. Lowery, who is one of the country's foremost zoologists.

### **Confusing Winter Oriole**

*The Raven* (41:55) recently published a note pointing out once again that no matter how carefully we study a bird in the field or even in the hand, some circumstances require a critical comparison with study skins:

"A bird fulfilling all the field marks of a female Bullock's Oriole—include a white belly—appeared at a feeding station near Fairfax, Virginia, in late December 1969. Gale Monson saw the bird on 12 February 1970, and on 13 February it was trapped and turned over to J. M. Abbott for treatment of a frozen foot. Several weeks later the bird died and was given to the U. S. National Museum. A critical review of the specimen, particularly by Mrs. Roxie Laybourne, revealed that it was, in fact, a Baltimore Oriole. This strongly suggests that sight records of female or immature Bullock's Orioles in the East are all suspect."

### **Bank Swallows in July at Kerr Lake**

The September 1970 *Raven* also reports that Gilbert Grant and Carl Johnson found Bank Swallows at Kerr Reservoir near Clarksville, Virginia, in early July 1969. Because there are no known breeding sites in the vicinity, these birds must be assumed to be early fall migrants. However, recently established Cliff Swallow colonies at Kerr Lake and other major reservoirs in the Carolinas suggest the possibility that Bank Swallows might follow suit.

## **BOOK REVIEW**

HIGH ARCTIC. George Miksch Sutton. Paul S. Eriksson, Inc., 119 W. 57 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019, 1971. 105 p. Illus. Index. \$12.95.

Subtitled "An Expedition to the Unspoiled North," this book is a charming memoir by the man who is currently Professor Emeritus of Zoology at the University of Oklahoma and Curator of Birds at its Stovall Museum. At an age when many men contentedly play miniature golf in retirement villages, Dr. Sutton joined a field expedition to Bathurst Island, halfway between the Arctic Circle and the northernmost lands known to man. Young in mind and spirit, Dr. Sutton gamely bounced around the Far North in a toboggan pulled by a Ski-Doo and in an Otter airplane, making field sketches under miserable weather conditions. Each time he encounters a scene of great beauty, a new species of wildlife, or a new awareness of his own humanity, he expresses himself with prose as beautiful as his paintings. I suppose the purpose of the book is to show how zoologists study the birds and mammals of the Arctic, but I am most impressed by what it reveals about George Miksch Sutton, artist, writer, teacher, and thoroughly remarkable human being.—EFF