

Loggerhead Shrike with Unusually Large Egg Clutch

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The nest of a Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) was found on 24 April 1971 approximately 90 yards E of Hwy 132 on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. It was approximately 10 feet up in a live oak tree (*Quercus virginiana*) in a scattered grove. When the nest was discovered it contained nine Shrike eggs. According to *Life Histories of North American Wagtails, Shrikes, Vireos, and Their Allies* (Arthur Bent, 1965), the normal clutch is four to six eggs with four to five being found most often. No reference was located which referred to a clutch of eggs this large.

On 4 May 1971 the nest contained five young shrikes and four eggs. I visited the nest on several subsequent occasions but could not determine the number of eggs present. On 18 May the nest contained four young that left the nest at my approach. A single egg remained in the nest. The fate of the other three eggs is unknown.

Blue Grosbeak and Painted Bunting At Southern Pines, N. C., in Winter

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On 22 December 1970, a Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*), was seen approximately 4.5 miles NNW of Southern Pines, Moore County, N. C. Edmund LeGrand, Harry LeGrand, and Robert Teulings collaborated with me on the identification of the bird. The bird was flushed from dead weeds which formed a thick cover 1.5 to 3 feet high in a field. It was observed at length as it sat in a small tree. All field marks were noted, including the characteristic "tail flicking" of this species. Its brown plumage indicated it to be a female, or possibly an immature male. There are three previous winter records for this species in North Carolina. Two were recorded on 30 December 1959 on the Wilmington Christmas Count (*Chat*, 24:6-11), one was listed on the Stanley County Christmas Count in 1966 (*Chat*, 31:22), and two remained at Chapel Hill during the 1969-1970 winter (*Chat*, 34:107).

On 24 December 1970 a Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) in green plumage appeared at a feeder in Southern Pines. It repeated at that station on 62 days through 12 April, and it was seen once in a yard about two blocks away. It fed mainly at a feeder filled with millet. Though very shy, all field marks were repeatedly noted by both authors from distances as close as 6 feet. It preferred to feed alone, but had some tolerance for Field Sparrows (*Spizella pusilla*) and American Goldfinches (*Spinus tristis*). The bird survived some quite cold weather, including three ice and snow storms. The Bent volumes on finches (U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 237, p. 153) state that the normal winter range is no further north than southern Louisiana and central Florida. It is described as casual in winter north to Fayetteville, N. C. An adult male was present at Fayetteville from 13 through 25 February 1962 (*Chat*, 26:76-77). This species is known to occur rarely on the southeastern coast of North Carolina in winter (*Chat*, 16:16; 18:27, 57; Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley, *Birds of North Carolina*, 1959 edition, p. 363). This appears to be the second inland winter record for the Painted Bunting in North Carolina.