

that this was a Reddish Egret. Color photographs were secured and two have been submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Photoduplicate File at Patuxent, Maryland. The photographs have been given acquisition numbers 198 ITa and 198-ITb.

This appears to be the second record of this southern wader in North Carolina. The first report was from near Charlotte on 27 July 1947 (*Chat*, 12:52, 1948). Two birds found in Berkely County, S.C., on 15 January 1934, represent the only published record of this species from South Carolina (*South Carolina Bird Life*, Sprunt and Chamberlain, 1970). The publication of this note and the placement of photographs in the National Photoduplicate File allow the Reddish Egret to be added to the official bird list for North Carolina.

## **A Second Hooded Merganser Brood in South Carolina**

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A brood of Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) was produced at Orangeburg National Fish Hatchery, Orangeburg, S.C. I saw a female with three young unable to fly on 2 June 1972. The brood was first seen in the hatchery's main reservoir pond two weeks earlier by Hatchery Manager Ted Dingley. At that time four young were present. No male was ever observed. The nesting site was not found, but nine Wood Duck boxes are located in the reservoir area. By 21 July 1972 the female had disappeared, but the three young remained and were observed flying from one hatchery pond to another (Ted Dingley, pers. com.).

This is the second positive instance of nesting by the Hooded Merganser in South Carolina. The first was reported by T. A. Beckett, who observed two young at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston County, in May 1967 (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1970, p. 592). As one of these was secured for the Charleston Museum, no attempt was made to collect the hatchery birds, but on 2 June several recognizable photographs were made. During my attempts to photograph them, the young dove and disappeared from view for 30 minutes. The female scooted frantically across the reservoir in an apparent attempt to decoy me away from the brood.

Increased use of Wood Duck nesting boxes by Hooded Mergansers in states north of South Carolina raises the possibility of imprinting as a technique in promoting future Hooded Merganser nesting in this state.

## **Woodcock at Butner, N.C., in March**

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On 21 March 1972 at 11:00 I observed three American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) chicks near Butner, N.C. They were in a "freezing" defense in the middle of a paved road near a creek bottom. I approached on foot within 20 feet before noticing the long-billed Woodcock hen feigning injury at the edge of the woods. Before I could reach the young, a car passed over them, the backdraft tumbling them like bits of weightless fluff. They immediately resumed their "freezing" attitude and maintained it while I knelt beside them, observing them closely. They were unharmed and unmistakably Woodcocks because of their elongated bills and mottled downy plumage. They had not developed primary wing feathers. Fearing for their safety, I placed them on the shoulder of the road. They ran skillfully, with wings raised for balance. From growth characteristics cited by W. G. Sheldon in *The Book of the American Woodcock*, 1967, I estimated their