



Roundtable

... with Louis C. Fink

The National Park Service—conscious of the pressure on our National Parks—has published a list of “lesser known areas of the National Park System,” obviously inviting their use. For North Carolina, the Service recommends Guilford Court House National Military Park in Greensboro and parts of the Blue Ridge Parkway, embracing several large recreational areas. No Parks are suggested for South Carolina.

Data on Red-cockaded Woodpeckers Needed

A survey is being conducted on the range and abundance of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos borealis*) in North Carolina. Information on the exact location of nesting colonies is needed by 1 May 1974; information on abandoned colonies and sight records will also be appreciated. Send data to J.H. Carter III, Zoology Department, N.C. State University, Raleigh, N.C. 27607.

Chickadee Acrobatics

Mary L. Lee, P.O. Box 202, Townsend, Tennessee 37882, asks our readers to compare notes or explain the acrobatics of a chickadee at her feeder in 1967—which she has never seen before or since. The temperature was well below zero. The chickadee landed on a loose wire above a bird feeder, made a somersault, landed upside down on the edge of the roof of the feeder, took another somersault, and landed on a rod at the base of the feeder. He repeated this feat a dozen times.

Chickadees thrive in cold weather, and it may be guessed that this bird was after food. Edward Howe Forbush noted in “Birds of America” (Garden City Publishing Co., Inc., N.Y., 1936) that the Chestnut-backed Chickadee often turns “an occasional half-somersault in air when pursuing some winged insect.”

Recent Publications by CBC Members

Several CBC members have recently published papers in journals other than *Chat*. The April 1973 *Auk* includes “Estimating Numbers in a Roosting Congregation of Blackbirds and Starlings” by Paul A. Stewart of Oxford, N.C., and “Growth and Development of Long-billed Curlew Chicks” by Dennis M. Forsythe of Charleston, S.C. Dr. Stewart’s paper is based on studies made at the infamous blackbird roost near Scotland Neck, Halifax County, N.C. By comparing the amount of feces dropped overnight by individual birds caught as they approached the roost and held in cages to feces samples caught on the ground at measured locations over the site, he estimated the roost to contain 2,294,-713 birds. The July 1973 *Auk* carries “The Daily Rhythm of Hawk Migration at Cedar Grove, Wisconsin” by Helmut C. Mueller of Chapel Hill, N.C., and Daniel D. Berger.

Dr. Mueller published “Zone-tailed Hawk and Turkey Vulture: Mimicry or Aerodynamics?” in the Summer 1972 *Condor*. This same issue contains Dr. Stewart’s paper “Change of Winter Feeding Sites by Individual Brown-headed Cowbirds.” “Mortality of Purple Martins from Adverse Weather” by Dr. Stewart appears in the

Winter 1972 *Condor*. Relatively large amounts of unused food in the gizzards of the dead martins suggests that exposure to low temperature was the cause of death rather than starvation.

Bird-finding in the Carolinas

A newcomer to the Carolinas (like this contributor) or a visitor has trouble finding the choice spots for bird-study. Most experienced birders are too busy to give directions by mail and direct the inquirer to Oconeechee Neck or Wilmington or Southern Pines or Lake Raleigh. These are big areas and the newcomer does not know where to begin.

In the hope that some good spots may be pinpointed, readers are asked to submit brief directions for bird-watching in and around their cities. The program was started some time ago, but not continued.

If you are generous enough to provide directions in your area, please assume that the reader has a car and a city map. Avoid private places where visitors are not welcome. Avoid spots which might be dangerous to a man alone. (A woman is never encouraged to go in the field alone!)

Here's a sample:

ROCKY MOUNT, N.C. — City Park on Sunset Avenue has a lake with a resident Canada Goose and Whistling Swan. At least two pairs of House Wrens nested in broken lamp posts. Brown-headed Nuthatches in mature pines. Across Sunset Avenue is Sunset Park, with a colony of Barn Swallows; at the northeast end of the Park is a patch of woods and a trail along the Tar River. Follow the "Hospital" signs to Nash General Hospital. Stop to investigate Stony Creek on the way; a trail by the bridge leads into the woods with a good population of summer residents. Behind the doctors' office building at the hospital are three ponds, with kingfishers, breeding Green Herons, and an occasional glimpse of a Sharp-shinned or Red-tailed Hawk.

On Falls Road at the Rocky Mount Mills is a parking space; the trail here goes along the river for half a mile: thrushes, chickadees, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, flycatchers, Rusty Blackbirds, and another summer colony of Barn Swallows.

The new reservoir is reached by driving west on Route 97 past the airport. Three access roads to the dam and reservoir are marked with large signs. Yellow-billed Cuckoos appear and at least an occasional late-summer egret.

Seven Bridges is a swamp area east of Rocky Mount in Edgecombe County. Drive east on Route 97 to Holloman's Store, and turn left of Route 1400. (The sign points to Gethsemane.) Turn right on Route 1404; a paved road includes a series of bridges. You can stop at each bridge and look into the cypress and other trees for migrating warblers. On the way, open fields produce meadowlarks, phoebes, Horned Larks, and pipits in season.

Swallow-tailed Kite Records Requested

John Emmett Cely, 5140 Furman Avenue, Columbia, S.C. 29206, is trying to determine the breeding range, abundance, and distribution of the Swallow-tailed Kite in the Carolinas and Georgia. He would appreciate receiving full details of any records you may have, particularly breeding records.