

Cormorant in second winter plumage (Basic II, Palmer's *Handbook of North American Birds*, p. 318).

According to Palmer's *Handbook*, the Great Cormorant winters regularly on the Atlantic coast of North America as far south as Long Island and casually southward to Florida, the longer migratory movements being made primarily by subadult individuals. There are two previous sight records of the species for North Carolina, both from the vicinity of Oregon Inlet. While participating in the Bodie-Pea Island Christmas Bird Count on 30 December 1970, H. Douglas Pratt saw an immature Great Cormorant flying over Oregon Inlet toward the ocean in the morning, and in the early afternoon Robert J. Hader and David L. Hughes saw what is presumed to have been the same bird in flight over the ocean a few miles south of the inlet (*Chat*, 35:22). Exactly one year later Richard H. Peake saw an immature Great Cormorant in flight along the shore of Bodie Island (*Chat*, 36:21). The bird seen at Croatan Sound constitutes the third independent sight record of the species for North Carolina and the first known spring occurrence in the state.

[Dept. Ed.—With the publication of this record this species can be placed on the official North Carolina list.]

Specimen of Harcourt's Storm-Petrel Found in North Carolina

JOHN FUSSELL

North Carolina State University
Department of Zoology, Raleigh, N.C. 27607

4 October 1973

On 22 June 1972, following the passage of tropical storm Agnes the previous day, I examined the flotsam along the drift line between Atlantic Beach and Beaufort Inlet in search of dead pelagic birds. Three Greater Shearwaters (*Puffinus gravis*) and one Harcourt's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) were found.

The storm-petrel was later examined at the United States National Museum by Roxie Laybourne, who identified it as being the Atlantic subspecies, *Oceanodroma castro castro*. It was a female, ovary 3 mm x 2mm, and it has been placed in the study collection at the National Museum (USNM NO. 566873).

This is the first record of the Harcourt's Storm Petrel for North Carolina. The first record for South Carolina was made 2 days earlier, 20 June, when Jay Shuler captured a live specimen near McClellanville (*Chat*, 27:78).

Both the North and South Carolina birds were probably brought ashore by the strong easterly (onshore) winds that blew across the Carolinas from 19 to 22 June. These winds were the result of tropical storm Agnes which was located to the south of the Carolinas. The accepted range of the Harcourt's Storm-Petrel in the North Atlantic is the general area stretching from the Cape Verde Islands to the Azores and Canaries (Palmer, *Handbook of North American Birds*, 1962, p. 237-238). It is unlikely that Agnes influenced the weather east of Bermuda (see Weatherwise, 25:178-179). Thus, it is possible that the Carolina birds originated far west of their normally accepted range, perhaps only 300 to 400 miles or less off the coast.

[Dept. Ed.—With the deposition of this specimen in the National Museum, Harcourt's Storm-Petrel can be placed on the official North Carolina list.]