

Forster's Tern Nest Found near Cape Lookout, N.C.

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On 18 May 1973 I found a Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) nest near Cape Lookout, North Carolina. It was on a small island (approximately 150 feet by 150 feet) 1/3 mile W of Morgan Island, which lies immediately W of the Cape Lookout Channel about 2 miles S of Harkers Island. The island was covered entirely by *Spartina alterniflora* and would be almost completely flooded by high tides.

I was attracted to the island by two adult Forster's Terns in full breeding plumage that were sitting on a windrow of dry eel-grass (*Zostera marina*). They flew up as I approached and began circling overhead, constantly uttering the diagnostic "zurr" call. I found the nest on the mat of eel-grass from which the birds had flown. It consisted of a few dry pieces of *Spartina alterniflora* culms loosely arranged around a single egg. The egg was essentially identical to those of the Common Tern (*S. hirundo*). It was 46 mm in length, was dark olive, and had numerous brown blotches of various shades.

This is the first positive nesting record of the Forster's Tern in Carteret County, although the species almost certainly nested at North River Marsh in 1971 (*American Birds*, 25:845), and possibly nested there as early as 1963 (personal observation).

Aspergillosis in a Royal Tern from Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, S.C.

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Large numbers of Royal Terns (*Thalasseus maximus*) and Sandwich Terns (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) nest on Marsh Island, Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, in the company of Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*), Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*), Clapper Rails (*Rallus longirostris*), Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*), and Louisiana Herons (*Hydranassa tricolor*). Royal Terns comprise about 90% of the breeding tern population, which has been doing very well. Reproductive success seems excellent, and there has been, as yet, no indication of eggshell thinning. By contrast, the local Brown Pelican population has undergone marked decreases, and the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center is currently investigating the cause of this decline.

During field studies on 13 May 1972, a dead Royal Tern was picked up on Marsh Island and was later submitted for necropsy (examination) and chemical analysis. The bird was an emaciated adult male, weighing 317 grams, with a prominent sternal keel. Moderate amounts of subcutaneous and abdominal fat were still present. All air sacs were thickened and contained several variously sized yellowish mycotic plaques (fungal growths); one plaque in the right thoracic air sac (10 x 8 x 3 mm) was greyish. Microscopically, it was a typical aspergillosis lesion and contained typical conidiophores (asexual fruiting bodies) of *Aspergillus* sp. Sections of the lung contained similar, but much smaller, *Aspergillus* lesions. Although no attempt was made to identify the *Aspergillus* culturally, it is likely that the infection was caused by *Aspergillus fumigatus*, the most common cause of aspergillosis among birds.

Chemical analysis revealed only 0.20 ppm DDE in the brain. PCB brain levels were less than 0.5 ppm. The carcass contained 0.68 ppm DDE and 1.3 ppm PCB. No dieldrin, DDT, heptachlor, mirex, or chlordane derivatives were found in either the brain or the