

Eared Grebe in the eastern Great Lakes and along the Atlantic Coast. He found about 30 pre-1957 sight records and about 130 records between 1957 and 1966. Since 1966 scattered records in the regional reports of *Audubon Field Notes* (now *American Birds*) indicate that this trend of increased numbers of Eared Grebes along the Atlantic Coast in winter and early spring has continued. The recent North Carolina observations fit into this pattern and suggest that this species may be expected along our coast more regularly in future winters.

## **Horned Grebes in Mutual Display During Northward Migration**

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The morning of 7 April 1973 the ocean off Kill Devil Hills, N.C., was perfectly calm. There were no breakers, and the surface was so flat and smooth that it reflected the sky. I scanned the water with a 30X Balscope, and as far as I could see up and down the shore and eastward toward the horizon the ocean was dotted with Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*), mostly single birds in some stage of acquiring the nuptial tufts at the sides of the crown. Although the birds dived, bathed, preened, and rested, they were moving northward in an unhurried procession. As the birds that were at first directly in front of my position atop a sand dune moved out of sight to the north, more grebes steadily moved into view from the south. The birds generally ignored each other and remained spaced well apart, but two Horned Grebes were seen standing upright on the water face to face. Apparently in complete breeding plumage, they maintained this posture for at least a full minute, giving my wife ample opportunity to see the display. Neither Palmer (*Handbook of North American Birds*, Vol. 1, 1962) nor Bent (*Life Histories of North American Diving Birds*, 1919) mentions the occurrence of mutual displays among Horned Grebes during spring migration. Palmer (*Handbook of North American Birds*, Vol. 1, 1962, p. 76-77) says there is a slight suggestion from a few birds collected in Ontario that the male arrives on the breeding ground in advance of the female. My observation suggests that some birds seek mates during northward migration.

## **Third Sight Record of Great Cormorant from North Carolina**

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10 April 1973

While driving eastward on the bridge across Croatan Sound between Manns Harbor, N.C., and Roanoke Island on the afternoon of 6 April 1973, we saw 100 or more Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) flying, fishing, and resting near the bridge. Two cormorants that seemed larger than the others approached from the north in flight, and Jack Potter noted a white belly on one of the birds. As the pair flew over the bridge directly in front of the car, Eloise Potter was able to see the light throat, cinnamon breast, and white belly of an immature Great Cormorant (*P. carbo*). We stopped at the end of the bridge, consulted our field guides (primarily *Birds of North America* by Robbins et al.), and agreed that we had seen an immature Great Cormorant well enough to be confident of its identity. The accompanying cormorant had dark underparts and is presumed to have been a Double-crested because we saw no white on the chin, belly, or thighs; however, the other bird may have been a subadult Great

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

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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.]