

puzzling until we learned that immatures may lack the yellow base, which is characteristic of adults. The bird remained in the vicinity until 31 October and was seen at close range by several other observers. Marsh obtained several photographs.

A search through *The Chat* showed six previous inland records of the Red Phalarope in North Carolina. Perhaps the most interesting record was that of one kept alive from 21 to 24 March 1888 at Wake Forest by W.L. Poteat (*Chat*, 26:55). This record was overlooked by the authors of *Birds of North Carolina* and by Hader in his "Species List of Birds of Wake County, N.C." (*Chat*, 33:53-71). The other inland records are from Rocky Mount on 16 November 1939 (Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley, *Birds of North Carolina*, 1942, revised Wray and Davis, 1959); Lenoir on 1 January 1947 (*Chat*, 11:50); Fontana Lake on 2 October 1949 (*Chat*, 13:72); North Wilkesboro on 16 October (*Chat*, 24:24-25), and Fayetteville on 5 December 1960 (*Chat*, 25:16).

Least Terns in a Cantaloupe Patch

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12 June 1974

On 17 May 1971, while walking into a large cantaloupe field at the U.S. Vegetable Breeding Laboratory located about 7 miles S of Charleston, S.C., I was met by a group of dive-bombing Least Terns (*Sterna albifrons*). The air was full of them, dive-bombing, screaming, and beak-clicking at my head. This behavior suggested nests, which were soon discovered.

Although eight pairs of adult terns were present in the area, only seven nests, each with one or two mottled eggs, were found. The nests were placed in depressions on barrier paper-mulched, 80-inch wide, cantaloupe beds. During the next 3 weeks, two clutches were eaten by a fox, one was destroyed in a weeding operation, two were abandoned when cantaloupe vines overgrew them, and two apparently hatched, although no young were seen. Adult terns carried small fish to the area of the last two nests, evidently feeding young, but vine growth made it impossible to see them.

In mid-April 1972, while three fields near the site of the 1971 nests were being planted, four Least Terns landed in the middle one. Over the next three days they were there regularly. As we approached the area during a planting operation on the third day, I noticed one tern spinning a depression in the paper. Thinking this bird might be established a nest, I carefully noted the row number for future observation. Later in the day I attempted to locate the nest, but without success. Our activities probably discouraged the terns, for they flew away and did not return.

Least Terns are seen occasionally over the irrigation ponds along the tidal creek that borders the laboratory property, and sometimes in recently plowed fields in company with Ring-billed and Laughing Gulls; however, nests were unknown in our fields prior to 1971.

Why would Least Terns choose a paper-mulched cantaloupe field in preference to the usual sandy beach nesting sites several miles away? Perhaps there was some resemblance between these fields and sandy beaches. The question is difficult to answer, for color appears to be the only common factor in both sites. The cantaloupe plants were very small when the birds initially chose the field site, and the color of the fields was tan with small green patches.

Possible Summer Resident Nighthawks at Brevard, N.C.

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20 January 1973

The Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) has been observed during the summer of 1972 in the mountain town of Brevard, N.C., elevation 2,250 feet. Although com-

mon at lower altitudes, nighthawks are rare in the mountains except during the fall migration. The following, therefore, is of interest.

At approximately 18:40 EDT on 24 May, a lone bird was sighted from our back yard, which is located in a wooded, residential section approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile S of the center of town. The nighthawk approached from the south, flew almost directly overhead (at which time the white wing patches were clearly visible in a bright sky), and continued the unusual arrow-like path due north toward the center of Brevard. As a result of this sighting, particular attention was paid to the sky during June bicycle-birding trips along the fields and streams bordering the southern edge of Brevard. No nighthawks could be found in these semirural areas. July field trips also failed to turn up any nighthawks in these areas.

On an unusual bicycle trip through the center of town on 6 August, a nighthawk's call was heard at approximately 20:20. One bird finally was located over one of the downtown buildings. Due to the darkness of the sky (heavy clouds as well as lateness), wing patches could not be discerned; however, calls, wing shape, and characteristic erratic feeding flight provided positive identification of this species, which I have observed many times during its fall migration through here and during summer business trips to Midwestern cities where it is a common breeder. The following evening, 10 x 50 binoculars were carried along. No nighthawks could be found over the fields, but at approximately 20:05 one was seen in the same downtown location. Wing patches were distinct. Feeding seemed limited to a two-block area.

No nighthawks were found over the fields on 13 or 15 August. The downtown area was not checked on the 13th, but on the 15th, five nighthawks were observed. One or two were calling. Seven nighthawks were seen briefly over the fields on 19 August; one was there on 27 August; four were present 28 August. The fall migration began in earnest on 29 August and continued through 27 September.

The downtown sightings of 6 and 7 August are not proof of residence, as the area had not been canvassed at any previous time during the summer. The additional birds observed downtown on 15 August may or may not have been juveniles raised here.

Although further field work will be required to determine whether or not this species may be breeding here, its very presence in late May and early August is noteworthy. In *Notes on the Birds of Great Smoky Mountains National Park* (Stupka, University of Tennessee Press, 1963) all references to nighthawks are at altitudes below 1,900 feet and on dates prior to 24 June or after 12 August. It is stated that no young or eggs have been found in the Park. Charles D. Hutchinson's mimeographed "Birds of Western North Carolina Check List," 1967, lists nighthawks as occurring in August as migrants. During the 1970, 1971, and 1972 Spring Bird Counts (late April and early May) in the mountain counties of Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, McDowell, and Yancey, as compiled in *The Chat*, no nighthawks were found.

ADDENDUM: During the summers of 1973 and 1974 I observed a single pair of Common Nighthawks flying over the same area. I have been unable to gain access to the tops of buildings to search for eggs.—W.C. HOLLAND JR.

A New Species for South Carolina: Fork-tailed Flycatcher Photographed on Bull's Island

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On 1 November 1973 a Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora tyrannus*) was observed for half an hour by me and three other persons on Bull's Island, South Carolina. As luck would have it, I had brought my 275 mm lens along (attached to a Pentax camera), and I was able to photograph the bird with ease (Figure 1).

Although this is the first record of the species for South Carolina, it has been sighted on at least two other occasions in the southeastern United States. Sprunt (*Florida Bird*