

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*



Figure 1. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was photographed on Bull's Island in the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge on 1 November 1973, providing the first positive record of this tropical species for South Carolina. (Photo by John Henry Dick)

Life, 1954, p. 500) places an apparently reliable Florida record on the hypothetical list for that state. Bent (*Life Histories of North American Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows, and their Allies*, 1942, p. 82) lists records for Mississippi as well as California, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. One of the New Jersey records and those for California and Michigan are indefinite; specimens said to have been taken are either lost or destroyed. Danzenbaker (*Cassinia*, 54:32) describes several recent records of the species for New Jersey. It may be of interest to point out that a specimen collected by Audubon near Camden, New Jersey, in June 1832, served as the model for one of the most beautiful plates in his magnificent *Elephant Folio*.

On the date of the record reported here, Gardner D. Stout (President, American Museum of Natural History) and I were spending the day on Bull's Island. Burkett S. Neely (Superintendent, Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge) provided red carpet treatment and drove us about the island in his jeep. As this was the first week of the refuge's annual bow and arrow hunt, he kept in touch with his staff by walkie-talkie. One of the hunters passed the word around that he had seen a flycatcher-like bird with an extremely long tail sitting on a telephone wire near Summerhouse Pond on the island's south end. We drove immediately to the area and spotted the bird on the wire. Thinking it to be a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (rare but seen at irregular intervals in the area), I busied myself with putting the camera together and stalking the bird for a shot. Then, in a loud clear voice, Gardner Stout identified it as a Fork-tailed.

The bird was an adult in fine plumage with streaming tail feathers almost a foot long. Several times it left the wire hawking after insects, and each time it returned to land, the tail was opened completely like great shears, then closed to nearly a single streamer. Twice it landed at eye level on a *Cassinia* bush, which gave me the chance hoped for with the camera.

L. Irby Davis (*A Field Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Central America*, 1972, p. 129), who refers to the species as the "Swallow-tailed Flycatcher," gives the normal range as Mexico to Argentina. It is possible that tropical storm Gilda, which moved up the East Coast several weeks prior to the date of our observation, carried the flycatcher to this area. Several people attempted to relocate the bird the weekend of 3 November 1973, but without success.

[For those unfamiliar with the Fork-tailed, it is a large, kingbird-sized flycatcher with pure white underparts, a gray back, black crown, and a long black scissor-like tail. Both sexes have a concealed yellow crown patch, smaller in the female. The species is figured on plate 28 of L. Irby Davis' book and plate 29 of Peterson's new *Field Guide to the Birds of Mexico*.—JRH]

Nesting Ravens on Pilot Mountain

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10 April 1974

On 22 March 1974 a team comprised of Fran Baldwin, Ruth Hill, Jerry Shiffert, Ramona Snavely, Paul Spain, and Park Ranger Jonathan Wild confirmed the nesting of Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*) on the pinnacle of Pilot Mountain (elevation, 2,440 feet) in Surry County, N.C. The nest was located on the east side of the pinnacle on a rock ledge with a larger rock ledge diagonally overhanging the nest on the left side. It is quite inaccessible and very difficult to reach.

The nest was a large bulky structure about 16 to 20 inches outside diameter and about 10 to 12 inches inside diameter consisting of large twigs $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. The young could not be seen in the nest because observation had to be made from below rather than above. Two and possibly three young were heard calling each time the adults approached the nest. The adults were seen carrying food but fed the young only once while we were present. Numerous photographs were taken of the nest, the surrounding habitat, and the adult birds.

A second visit was made on 7 April 1974 by Wayne Irvin and Jonathan Wild. On this occasion two young and possibly a third one were seen peering above the nest. The adults fed the young, and photographs were taken.

Sprague's Pipit in Northern South Carolina

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About 15:00 on 25 January 1973, we visited Creech's Pond in northeastern York County, S.C., approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the North Carolina state line. The area consists of large pastures with grazing cattle and two ponds, one about 4 acres in size, the other 1 acre. The smaller pond has a marshy area, and both have mud flats which attract migratory shore birds. Overwintering ducks and geese are usually present, but on this date only a Pied-billed Grebe, female Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck were on the larger pond.

While scouring the fields for Horned Larks, William Cobey noticed what appeared to be a small dark sparrow about 50 feet away. It walked without tail-wagging, and we observed the white outer tail feathers and thin bill of a pipit. With our 30X Balscope Sr. the striped back and yellowish legs of Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) could easily be seen. A second bird soon appeared from behind a grass clump, then a third popped up even closer. We watched them through the scope for 15 minutes before they flew away without