

- where). One previous, but unpublished, sight record for North Carolina.
- Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*): A high count of 125 was recorded on 21 December (JF, CM; SPCC).
- Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*): One was flushed from a weed patch along the golf course on 21 September. This species is very uncommon in the Sandhills area. (Carter, 1971)
- Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*): One was seen on 17 November (JHC, JF, CM, DM), and 5 were seen on 21 December (JF, CM; SPCC). First records for area.

LITERATURE CITED

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Sandhill Crane at Charleston, S.C.

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On the morning of 2 February 1974, while standing on the lawn of 8 Huguenot Avenue, St. Andrew's Parish, Charleston, S.C., I watched a single Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) for about 30 seconds as it flew in a southwesterly direction over Huguenot Avenue, disappearing over a stand of pines beyond the intersection of Huguenot Avenue and Farmfield Road. When first noted, the bird was passing over the western end of Farmfield Pond, a diked saltmarsh area of about 2 acres. Now brackish, this pond contains good stands of cattail and *Juncus*. At the time of observation (09:15), the sky was overcast and the temperature 64 F. When first seen, the crane appeared to be at a height of about 100 feet, and a distance of approximately 250 feet. It showed the extended neck and characteristic crane flight, but did not soar or call when within sight.

[Several records of this unmistakable bird are summarized by Sprunt and Chamberlain (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1970, p. 191-192 and 595-596). More recently, one adult was observed 4 March 1973 near Chester (*Chat*, 37:53) and another 19 September 1973 on Sullivan's Island (*Chat*, 37:30). The present sighting is the only one known from South Carolina in early February.—JRH]

Saw-whet Owls Found in Carteret County, N.C.

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On 18 December 1973, I found a dead Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) on Ft. Macon Road, 1 mile E of Atlantic Beach, N.C. The bird, although badly mutilated, appeared to have been killed recently, possibly the night before. On 6 January 1974, before dawn, I observed a Saw-whet Owl at a distance of about 10 feet with the aid of a 6-volt flashlight. This sighting also occurred on Bogue Banks east of Atlantic Beach at a location about 1/4 mile from the road kill. The bird was not calling, and it may have been attracted by a Screech Owl tape recording that was being played. These are the first records of the Saw-whet Owl from Carteret County.

[It is likely that this small owl is more common in eastern North Carolina in winter than is realized. Observers should be on the lookout for this bird throughout the eastern part of the

state. See the related article by Simpson in this issue for recent information on the status of the Saw-whet Owl in western North Carolina.—DEPT. ED.]

Recent Observations of Saw-whet Owls in the Southern Great Balsam and Black Mountains of North Carolina

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In previous articles (Simpson, 1968, 1972a, 1972b), I have reviewed records of the Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) from the southern Great Balsam and Black Mountains of western North Carolina. The following observations have been obtained subsequently.

BLACK MOUNTAINS (Yancey County)

Clyde Hopson (pers. com.) reported regular calling by Saw-whet Owls along the north slope of Mt. Hallback (elevation 6,200 feet) in Mt. Mitchell State Park during May, June, and July of 1971, 1972, and 1973. Individual owls were observed with flashlights near the restaurant parking lot on 10 and 13 August 1971 and again on several occasions in June 1972 and 1973. Hopson reported that a single owl had been calling near the restaurant each night after sunset during the period of 20 April to 10 May 1974; and on several occasions, Hopson was able to observe the owl at close range by use of a flashlight. These records combined with previous sightings reviewed by Simpson (1968, 1972b) indicate that the species is a regular although uncommon summer and spring resident in forests of red spruce (*Picea rubens*) and Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*) in the Mt. Mitchell area.

SOUTHERN GREAT BALSAM MOUNTAINS (Haywood, Jackson, and Transylvania Counties)

On 14 May 1974, I conducted a spot check of known calling areas along the Blue Ridge Parkway from Locust Gap to Silvermine Bald. A total of five Saw-whet Owls were calling in the range, and three of the five records were from locales where the species has not been previously encountered.

At 21:15 a single owl was calling from the peak of Lone Bald (elevation 5,400 feet) just above the Parkway. A second owl was heard at 22:30 in Sugar Cove (elevation 5,000 feet) on the N slope of Reinhart Knob. At 23:00 two owls were calling loudly just west of Tanasee Bald Overlook. Subsequent investigation revealed that one of the owls was near the summit of Herrin Knob (elevation 5,700 feet), while the other was calling from the crest of Fork Ridge (elevation 5,800 feet) approximately 1,000 feet N of Mt. Hardy. Later the same night, I returned to the overlook with a group of Carolina Bird Club members, including Ted Beckett, Walter Holland, Ramona Snavelly, and Ida Winkler, and we found the two owls still actively calling. At 23:30 our group located a single owl calling from the north slope of Devil's Courthouse (elevation 5,600 feet).

Previous one night surveys along this range have yielded totals of four to seven owls, with five being about average. Each of the five records from the present survey was from the typical habitat of spruce-fir forest with moderate to extensive infiltration with species found in secondary successional, northern hardwood, or heath bald communities.

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