

Mrs. Gaston Gage, the authors, and others. It was photographed on at least two occasions.

The bird spent its time at a newly constructed farm pond which contained less than 2 feet of water and abundant invertebrate life. It was very tame, feeding calmly at the approach of farm animals to within 30 feet, and allowing observers to walk to within 75 feet. The avocet fed with Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) and Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), walked across the pond in water up to its breast, and tipped-up repeatedly in the deeper water (cf. Bent's *Life Histories of North American Shorebirds*, Part I, Dover reprint, 1962). After the avocet had left the pond, the Killdeer were joined by a pair of Pectoral Sandpipers (*Erolia melanotos*). Sprunt and Chamberlain (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1970) record 21 September as the previous early date for the avocet in South Carolina.

First Record of the Roseate Tern Nesting in North Carolina

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On 2 June 1972, while conducting a survey of the breeding colonies of gulls and terns in eastern North Carolina, the authors discovered a Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) in a colony of several hundred Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*), scattered Gull-billed Terns (*Gelochelidon nilotica*), and Black Skimmers (*Rynchops nigra*) in Lighthouse Bay in Carteret County, N.C. On a second trip to this island on 19 July 1972, a Roseate Tern was still present. Although the Roseate Tern remained with the flocks of Common Terns, either on the island's beach or overhead, no evidence of its nesting was obtained on either visit; and, in fact, its behavior was not that of a bird with nest or young. A year later, on 23 May 1973, we returned to this island and found two Roseate Terns in the Common Tern breeding colony. This time both were very disturbed by our presence and joined the Common Terns in protest as we approached the nesting colony. We then moved offshore and watched as one of the Roseate Terns settled on a nest at the edge of the colony. Subsequent inspection of the nest revealed two eggs which were very similar to, but slightly smaller than, those of the Common Terns. The nest and nest site were similar to those of the nearby Common Terns. Photographs were secured of the adults overhead and of the nest and eggs.

The occurrence of Roseate Terns in North Carolina is considered unusual at any season. There are but 11 previous records. One was collected at Pea Island on 22 August 1904, one was found at Cape Hatteras on 20 January 1937, and undetermined numbers were seen at Pea Island on 4 and 7 July, 26 August, and 8 September in 1938 (*Birds of North Carolina*, Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley, 1949, p. 188). Individuals were found at Oregon Inlet on 17 and 18 August 1939, and the species also was listed as fairly common at Pea Island between 28 August and 8 September 1939 (Gray, *Chat*, 4:3-4, 1940). Two individuals were seen at Town Shoal near Beaufort, North Carolina on 19 September 1939 (Simpson, *Chat*, 4:75, 1940). There were no further records until 23 May 1958 when one was seen near Southport by J. Irvine and M. Barnhill (*Audubon Field Notes*, 12:343). No observations of this tern in North Carolina have been published between 1958 and the present paper.

All of the above records appear to represent fall transients except the bird seen near Southport on 23 May 1958 and the individual seen on 20 January 1937 at Cape Hatteras.

The breeding range of this bird is very irregular. According to the American Orni-

thologists' Union's *Check-list of North American Birds* (1957), the Roseate Tern breeds locally in the western Atlantic from Nova Scotia to the West Indies. There appear to be no records between Cobbs Island, Virginia, and the Dry Tortugas. This observation from Carteret County, N.C., adds a new nesting site approximately 225 miles S of Cobbs Island and represents the addition of a new species to the nesting bird fauna of North Carolina.

Bruce Mack (*Chat*, 33:85-87, 1969) summarized the status of the Roseate Tern in the Carolinas. He commented that, while bill color was recognized as quite variable, spring migrants should have entirely black bills and that fall migrants should have varying amounts of red present in the bill. Breeding birds should also have partially red bills [This was based on Donaldson's paper on bill color changes in adult Roseate Terns (*Auk*, 85:662-668, 1968).] and that these implications needed to be tested in the Carolinas. It is of interest that the birds seen at the Carteret nesting site had bills that were entirely black; thus, bill color, apparently, is not always diagnostic of the breeding condition.

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Unusual Numbers of Tennessee Warblers at Chapel Hill, N.C., in Spring of 1974

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On 15 April 1974, I found a Tennessee Warbler at Mason Farm near Chapel Hill, N.C. The song, given frequently, was compared with the F.O.N. "Warblers" recording, confirming the close and leisurely visual study. The species is a scarce transient in our area, quite unusual in spring; and the episode was recorded as an interesting, but isolated, rarity. On 30 April, however, Stanley Alford called me with a good description of a Tennessee Warbler, seen several miles to the south. On the same day, Annie Leigh Broughton, with Johnnie Payne and Esther Krigbaum, saw two birds at Duke Forest, and also later compared the song with a recording. Broughton again heard the song near her Chapel Hill home 1 May. On 4 May William H. and Margaret Wagner found yet another Tennessee Warbler by New Hope Creek, and at Mason Farm the writer located one by song, soon confirmed visually by Robert and Elizabeth Teulings. Finally, on 5 May Alford made a detailed visual study of a Tennessee Warbler at University Lake.

These seven records were from six different locations on all sides of Chapel Hill, the two Mason Farm sightings being 3 weeks apart. Further, in few cases were any of the observers aware of the others' sightings. It seems clear that, apparently without precedent, the Tennessee Warbler was of fairly common occurrence in the vicinity of Chapel Hill in late April and early May of 1974.