

[While reports such as this always leave room for question, it is an excellent account of how, with patience and persistence, records from people who are not active "birders" may be verified. This report should stimulate further field work in Avery County.—DEPT. ED.]

## Sandhill Cranes in Western North Carolina

W. DAVID CHAMBERLAIN

214 Nantahala Building, Franklin, N.C. 28743

1 April 1974

On 22 March 1974 John Lively, of the North Carolina Department of Forestry, and I were checking timber for stand reforestation on Nantahala Park Property. About 12:45 we were driving through Tuni Gap in Clay County when four large birds appeared over a nearby ridge (elevation 4,000 feet). We stopped the car and observed the birds for 20 to 30 seconds with 7 x 35 binoculars at a distance of about 400 feet. It was immediately obvious that the birds were Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*). They flew in typical crane fashion with neck and legs extended as a "flying cross". The weather was clear, with a temperature reading of about 60 degrees. The birds continued through the gap in a northward direction.

[This is the third record of this species from North Carolina and the first from the western part of the state. The first record was from Robeson County in 1957 (*Chat*, 22:45, 1958) and the second was from Onslow County in 1970 (*Chat*, 38:39, 1974).—DEPT. ED.]

## An Avocet in the South Carolina Piedmont

PAUL B. HAMEL

Department of Recreation and Park Administration  
Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. 29631

ADAIR M. TEDARDS

Route 4, Box 157, Easley, S.C. 29640

The first American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) recorded in the South Carolina piedmont stayed at the Greenglow Farm operated by Don and Richard Quattlebaum, 1.5 mile NE of Pendleton, Anderson County, from 20 to 29 September 1974. The bird was observed by Clarissa Smith, Vivian Smith, Sidney Gauthreaux, Mr. and



American Avocet  
Anderson County, S.C.  
27 September 1974  
Photo by  
Gordon E. Howard