record for North Carolina. Several color slides were secured and deposited in the National Photoduplicate File (Accession No. 119-1Ta, 119-1Tb). Unfortunately, the transparencies were not of suitable quality for publishing in *The Chat*.

Great Cormorants have been sighted with increasing frequency in North Carolina since first discovered there in 1970. The first sighting was of an immature bird studied by H.D. Pratt as it flew overhead at Oregon Inlet on 30 December 1970. This, or perhaps another, immature Great Cormorant was observed about 6 hours later on that same day by R.J. Hader and D.L. Hughes about 6 miles S of Oregon Inlet (Teulings, 1971). An immature bird was sighted one year later by R.H. Peake on Bodie Island, just north of Oregon Inlet, on 30 December 1971 (Teulings, 1972) and the third sighting was in Croatan Sound on 6 April 1973 by J. Potter and E. Potter (1974). Two Great Cormorants were recorded on the 1973 Christmas Bird Counts in North Carolina. One was recorded by D. Peake and R.H. Peake on the Bodie-Pea Island count on 31 December 1973 and one was found by J.F. Parnell on the Wilmington CBC on 15 December 1973 (Potter, 1974).

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An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Raleigh, N.C., with Some Notes on the Occurrence of This Species in the Eastern United States

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On 16 May 1973 at about 10:00, I was walking along a railroad line which passes through the North Carolina State University campus. At a point where the line passes behind Pullen Park, I noticed a bird perched on an exposed branch of a small tree—perhaps 6 feet from the ground. The day was sunny with the sun directly behind me and shining onto the back of the bird. At first glance I took it to be an Eastern Wood Pewee (*Contopus virens*) (one had been singing in the vicinity) because of the gray-black back with poorly marked wingbars and white edging on the primaries, as well as the absence of tail-flicking. It appeared larger, however, and when I examined it with 8x40 binoculars, I noted rufus in the primaries and tail feathers, the latter appearing brighter than the primaries. As the bird turned its head to watch me, I saw that it had whitish underparts. The bill was rather stout and appeared to be completely black. I made these observations at a distance of about 30 feet, but could not get a better look at the underparts of the bird as the tree it was in was on the edge of a railroad embankment. Fortunately, it did call twice, both calls being a single rather squeaky upward-slurred note, best described as similar to one of the calls of the Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*). The bird then flew away.

Mu inclination at this point was the bird was indeed an Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), and I hurried over to the campus to check some references.

The possibility of a melanistic or partly melanistic Great Crested Flycatcher entered my mind, but I have never read of one, and the whitish underparts would make such a possibility unlikely.

Generally the plumage description I have given fits that of the Ash-throated Flycatcher very well. The bird I saw looked very much like the illustration in Peterson's *Field Guide to Western Birds* (1961), except that the rufus in the wings and tail was more pronounced, possibly because of the good light. My general impression did not agree with that of Peterson in his Eastern field guide (1937), i.e. "Like a small Great Crested Flycatcher"; but his statement "yellow of underparts paler, back gray" brings his impression more in line with what I saw, except that I was not able to see any yellowish coloration at all on the underparts. I also could not discern any olive coloration in the plumage of the bird, and it did not appear as slim as most Great Crested Flycatchers do to me. The bird I saw was more like the illustration in Peterson's Western field guide (1961) than in *Birds of North America* by Robbins, Bruun, and Zim (1966). On 14 July 1973 I made a trip with Sebastian Patti of Kansas City to the Black Mesa area of extreme northwestern Oklahoma, where the Ash-throated Flycatcher was rather common. The birds I saw there were identical to the bird I saw at Raleigh, except that the blackish-gray of the back was replaced by a paler shade. This apparent discrepancy may be explained by an observation made by Bent (1942): "Practically all the June and July adults that I have seen are in much worn plumage ...." Bent suggested that the birds molt in August and are in fresh plumage in the spring. Sutton (1967) also has written "Of nine Oklahoma specimens at hand, five males and three females (May 19 - July 5) are in worn, much-faded breeding feather. A male taken August 30 is in the midst of the postnuptial molt."

Robbins et al. (1966) state: "The call of short sharp notes has the quality of the Western Kingbird's (*Tyrannus verticnis*)." I have heard the latter many times in Kansas. While the quality of the calls I heard given by the Raleigh bird fits that description, the bird I saw did not call in a series. The birds seen in Oklahoma gave many and variable calls, some of which resembled the note I heard twice from the Raleigh bird. In this context a comment by Florence A. Merrian Bailey, cited by Bent (1942), is pertinent: "[The calls of the Ash-throated Flycatcher] closely resemble those of the eastern Great-crest, (*M. crinitus*)."

I cannot find any spring records for the Ash-throated Flycatcher in the eastern United States. The following are the published fall and early winter records:

Maine	17-20 Sept. 1971	Isle of Shoals	Finch, 1972
Massachusetts	25 Nov. - 3 Dec. 1972	Gloucester*	Finch, 1973
Rhode Island	15 Sept. 1960	Block Island**	Bagg & Emery, 1961
New York	22-24 Nov. 1970	Larchmont*	Boyajian, 1971
Maryland	25 Nov. 1911	Beltsville**	Simon, 1958
	22-26 Nov. 1957	Monkton**	Simon, 1958
	4 Dec. 1962	Emmitsburg	Scott & Cutler, 1963
Virginia	26 Dec. 1957	Little Creek	Richardson, 1958
Florida	21 Oct. 1956	Pensacola	Simon, 1958
	24 Dec. 1944	Pensacola**	Weston, 1946
Alabama	3 Nov. 1958	Dauphin Island**	Newman, 1959

* Photographed
** Specimen taken

The reasons for western birds straying to the eastern United States are at best obscure, but the literature indicates two areas of possible clarification: (a) normal dispersal and (b) abnormal migratory movement, i.e. disorientation. Johnston (1961) has summarized and defined dispersal as "Movement from site of birth to site of breeding" and noted that dispersal may carry an individual "beyond the area of established distribution of a species." Furthermore, Johnston noted that "The genetic heritage of some of the individuals probably casts them in the role of dispersers to long distances." That

some species have a tendency to disperse farther than others, and that such widely-dispersing species tend to be those with fewer subspecies is suggested by Berndt and Sternberg (1968), who stated, "An examination of recoveries of female Pied Flycatchers (*Ficedula hypoleuca*) shows that many first breed a considerable distance from their birthplace, in contrast to the situation of the Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*) and Nuthatch (*Pusilla europaea*). The degree of such dispersion in these species, and presumably therefore the gene flow, is inversely correlated with the number of geographical races they contain." The Ash-throated Flycatcher, as listed in the A.O.U. *Checklist* (1957), consists of two races, nominate *cinerascens*, which is "migratory throughout most, if not all, of its range" (Lanyon, 1961), and *pertinax*, which is resident in Baja California. These facts indicate, taking into account the conclusions of Berndt and Sternberg (1968), that *M. c. cinerascens* would tend to be a widely-dispersing taxon. Indeed, of the specimens taken and identified in the eastern United States, all have been of this race (Simon, 1958; Weston, 1946; Newman, 1959).

The second possible explanation for the straying of western birds to the east is rather speculative but has been convincingly stated by Able with reference to eastern birds straying to the Pacific coast (Able, 1972): "If, as Guy McCaskie suggests, most of the eastern birds found on the Pacific coast are lost and have faulty orientation mechanisms, something alarming is happening in populations of insectivorous birds. The matter merits investigation because who, for example, knows what effect persistent pesticides (which accumulate in birds' brains) might have on their ability to orient properly?" It is well known that several western species of flycatchers have been reported in the east in recent years.

Of course, the above discussion refers to fall movements of mostly young-of-the-year (Johnston, 1961). That the Raleigh bird described above represents the first spring record for the east presents a problem. It may be that a fall disperser which over-winters (and perhaps is disoriented also) may find itself in spring far removed from its "area of established distribution" (Johnston, 1961), and for many reasons (most notably lack of a mate) fails to establish a new breeding population. In other words, such an occurrence may be regarded as an extreme case of the normal phenomenon of dispersal (Johnston, 1961).

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Birds of Britain and Europe with North Africa and the Middle East

Herman Heinzel, Richard Fitter, and John Parslow. J.B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and New York, 1972. Fully illustrated in color. Range maps. List of accidentals. Indexed separately by common and scientific names. 336 p. 7¾" x 4¾". $7.50.

Whether or not you plan to visit one of the countries covered by this field guide, you will enjoy owning it. All the birds mentioned in the Bible and European literature are now at your finger tips—in color and with habitat sketches. If you happen to meet a straggler from Europe right here in the Carolinas, so much the better.

The format of this field guide is quite similar to that of the popular *Birds of North America* by Robbins, Bruun, Zim, and Singer. Over 1,000 birds are shown on color plates with the text for each species conveniently located on the facing page. Occasional double-page spreads illustrate many similar species for easy comparison (e.g. female ducks in flight, immature gulls). A drawing of an immature Great Black-backed Gull is incorrectly labeled "adult winter" and some of the illustrations of North American species (e.g. Parula Warbler) are less than satisfactory; but the book as a whole strikes me as being very well done. The hard-cover binding obviously is designed for durability in the field. The introductory material on identifying birds will be helpful to beginning bird students on any continent. The text includes a great deal of information on behavior and habitat preference that should be extremely helpful to the tourist bird watcher. Many juveniles and well-marked races are shown in small-scale drawings, and marginal sketches emphasize such fine points as differences in relative length of primaries between two very similar species. Measurements are given in both inches and centimeters. The range maps spare the foreigner the task of coping with unfamiliar names of geographical features and political boundaries.

This extremely well organized field guide is bound to be one of the best buys in book stores today.—EFP

Owls

Tony Angell. University of Washington Press, Seattle, Washington 98195, 1974. 63 drawings by author. Bibliography. 80 p. 8¼" x 11½". $12.95.

The author's drawings are reproduced by duotone offset lithography, which gives exactly the right muted effect appropriate for owls. In the introduction the author shows his understanding of owls as predators beautifully adapted to their way of life in the wild. The species accounts are at their best when Angell tells about his personal experiences with owls. The numerous drawings, Optima type face, spacious layouts, large page size, and attractive binding combine to make this slim book an appropriate gift for the discriminating nature lover.