

Savannah River near Augusta in January 1954, and Quay et al, (*Chat*, 33:27) reported one inland at Raleigh, N.C., in November 1968. No record of a bird wintering inland in any of these three states could be found. Norris (*Birds of the AEC Savannah River Area*, 1963) listed no scoters at SRP, so these observations constitute a new record for the area.

[There are at least three additional inland records of this species for North Carolina. Joyner (*Chat*, 21:70) reported a female at Rocky Mount in January 1957; Hader (*Chat*, 33:57) listed the record of Quay et al., plus another for the Raleigh area in November 1947; and Carter (*Chat*, 35:94) mentions one seen at Lakeview in the central sandhills area in October 1960. Although there are no definite records of White-winged Scoters wintering inland in the Carolinas or Georgia, one of the piedmont records (Shuler, *Chat*, 18:96) is that of an individual that appeared on Union Bleachery Reservoir in Greenville, S.C., on 12 March 1950, and stayed in the area for 12 days.—JRH]

Peregrine Falcon Harasses Red-tailed Hawk

ROGER L. BOYER

Landplan Systems, Commonwealth Associates Inc.
209 E. Washington Avenue, Jackson, Michigan 49201

During field reconnaissance in Fairfield County, S.C., near the eastern edge of the Sumter National Forest, on 11 September 1974, I observed two raptors soaring over open fields at about 0.4 km from me. As I watched, the smaller bird, which I identified as a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), dove from its higher position at a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). The Red-tail set its wings and veered upward and slightly sideways as the Peregrine passed within what appeared to be around 30 cm, with its talons outstretched.

After completing the dive, the Peregrine flew up to nearly its original height, above the Red-tail. Seconds later the entire performance was repeated, and then again and again for a total of five harassments. However, after each dive, the Peregrine never regained the same height above the Red-tail.

At the Peregrine's sixth dive, the Red-tail turned and met the harasser by rising slightly in the air and then dove with outstretched talons at the Peregrine as it flew by. This was the last harassment I saw, as both birds had flown a greater distance away during the activities, until they were no longer easily visible.

Sandhill Crane and Albino Owl in Charleston County, S.C.

JERE DUNCAN EGGLESTON

400 Saluda Avenue, Columbia, S.C. 29205

On 23 December 1973, my son Robert and I were hunting ducks in Mayrant's Reserve on Fairlawn Plantation, Charleston County, S.C., and for several hours had the opportunity to observe a Sandhill Crane that would occasionally circle around and over the reserve for 10 to 15 minutes at a time. Its loud call was easily distinguished from that of the Great Blue Heron, one of which was in the area at the same time. The weather, as I recall, was very cold with ice on the water most of the morning. That afternoon we returned and once again saw what we assumed to be the same bird. I have hunted Mayrant's Reserve every weekend of the duck season since about 1960, and to my knowledge this is the first and only observation of a Sandhill Crane.

On a completely different note, my wife and I were on Edisto Island, Charleston County, the weekend of 15-16 March 1975, and while walking through a stand of planted pine trees, flushed a white owl which I would identify as an albino Barred Owl. We both got a good look at the bird as it flew over our heads in an attempt to get over the tops of the closely planted pines. I very distinctly noted the round earless head and white back. My

wife noted brown spots on its breast. My impression was that the bird was small for a Barred Owl, a species with which I am very familiar. It was not large enough to consider the possibility of a Snowy Owl. Almost every night during the summer we heard Barred Owls hooting from this same patch of woods.

[The smaller size of this owl, together with the brown spots on its breast, make it likely that it was an albino Barn Owl rather than a Barred.—JRH, JFP]

The Nesting Season Status of the Blue-winged Warbler in the Carolinas

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.
Department of Zoology, Clemson University
Clemson, S.C. 29631

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NORTH CAROLINA—The only published evidence that the Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) nests or nested in North Carolina was a vague statement in *Birds of North Carolina* (Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley, 1942) that Coues reported it as breeding in Buncombe County, presumably in the 1880s and 1890s. *Birds of North Carolina* (1959 edition) listed a June record for Mt. Mitchell in Yancey County but, of course, supplied no details. Despite fairly extensive field work in the mountains during this century, nothing has been published concerning the occurrence of the Blue-winged Warbler during the breeding season. However, on 14 June 1968 Mary Enloe recorded a Blue-winged Warbler on a Breeding Bird Survey route in northwestern Graham County (data courtesy of the Migratory Bird Populations Station in Laurel, Maryland). Also, Eloise Potter observed a non-singing Blue-winged on 11 July 1964 (see article below) near Fontana Village in northern Graham County. She believed the bird was on territory. Since the three counties in the southwestern corner of the state (Graham, Cherokee, and Clay) generally have been neglected by ornithologists and the species occurs sparingly in northern Georgia (*Georgia Birds*, 1958), I believed that the Blue-winged might be widespread in this part of North Carolina, yet occur nowhere else in the state in the summer.

On 20 June 1974 I surveyed roadside habitats from southwestern Clay County to western Cherokee County, looking and listening strictly for Blue-winged Warblers. Beginning at Warne in Clay County at 06:15, I proceeded into Cherokee County and through Ranger, Suit, Hiwassee Dam, Unaka, and ending at Murphy at 11:00. I recorded five Blue-wings, all singing, at four places in Cherokee County, but none in Clay County. One bird was a mile SE of Suit and two were 3 miles N of Suit. Another was 2 miles W of Unaka, and the last was 1 mile W of Unaka. Three of the males were seen by using a tape recording of the song to bring the birds within 30 feet of me.

Practically the whole route censused lies between 1,500 and 2,000 feet, and the five birds were found between 1,650 and 1,800 feet. All birds were in basically the same habitat—overgrown fields with scattered deciduous saplings from 3 to 15 feet high on fairly level to gently sloping ground. None were found where the saplings formed a thicket. In general, the birds sang from trees on the edge of the field, 10 to 25 feet up in the trees, and only occasionally sang from the saplings in the field.

I saw no evidence of nesting, but the males were obviously on territory and presumed to be nesting. Thus, at the present time, the Blue-winged Warbler can be called a summer resident in the western halves of Graham and Cherokee counties, even though actual evidence of nesting is lacking.

SOUTH CAROLINA—On 12 June 1974 I found a singing Blue-winged Warbler along Eighteenmile Creek approximately 3 miles ESE of Central, S.C., in extreme southern Pickens County (elevation, 750 feet). I heard the song twice before I got a 3-second glance at the bird about 40 feet high in a deciduous tree at the edge of a powerline clearing. About 30 seconds after I saw the bird, it flew across the clearing (a low and shrubby thicket) and