



# General Field Notes

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## Spring Record of Eared Grebe in Northwestern South Carolina

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27 May 1975

During the first 10 days of May 1975, one to two Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*) in breeding plumage were reported on a small sewage pond at Pendleton, S.C. On 10 May I received word that a male Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) was on this pond; so I decided to take a look at the scaup and a grebe that were present there earlier in the day, because 10 May was a very late date for these species in South Carolina. The scaup was indeed a Greater, but the grebe was not a Horned but an Eared Grebe (*Podiceps caspicus*). I observed the grebe for approximately 10 minutes in excellent light with a 20X scope at 75 yards. It was constantly diving during this time and never remained on the surface for more than 5 seconds at a time, yet I obtained excellent views of it. The thin, blackish neck immediately separated the bird from the Horned, which has a thicker, chestnut colored neck. Also, the head was more rounded than the head of the Horned, and the ochre face patch covered all the cheek region, directly behind the eye. In the Horned Grebe, the ochre face patch is behind but primarily above the eye, forming a crest. The black crest of the Eared was also visible.

The Eared Grebe was seen later in the afternoon of 10 May by Sidney Gauthreaux,

Frank Moore, and Kerry Reese; all concurred with my identification. I last saw the bird on the pond on 15 May.

The identity of the second grebe is unknown. The birders who saw two grebes on 6 May (Clemson Spring Count day) had only binoculars and assumed both birds were Horneds, because the Eared is extremely rare in the southeastern United States. The observers told me that the two birds looked identical, indicating that the second may also have been an Eared. Having found no evidence that Horned Grebes ever were present on the pond this spring, I have tallied one Eared Grebe and no count-day Horned Grebe on the Clemson Spring Count. Because of the rarity of the Eared Grebe in the Southeast, I have decided not to count the second grebe also as an Eared.

Surprisingly, this is not the first record of the Eared Grebe for northwestern South Carolina, as Sidney Gauthreaux observed one on Lake Hartwell at Clemson on 27-28 January 1973 (*Chat*, 37:52). The only other record for the state is a bird seen by Walter Dawn and collected by E. Milby Burton at Charleston on 14 January 1959 (*Auk*, 76:521).

## **Cinnamon Teal at Wilmington, N.C.**

KITTY KOSH

188 Lake Forest Parkway  
Wilmington, N.C. 28401

PATRICK M. HUNT

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5 February 1975

On 29 December 1974 we flushed a drake Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) accompanied by three hens out of the weeds at the edge of Greenfield Lake. The teal swam into open water where the drake raised his body and spread his wings. This enabled us to see all field marks clearly with 7 X 35 binoculars at a distance of approximately 50 feet. The drake's head was cinnamon red and lacked facial markings. He was red on the breast and belly and down the back between the wings. He had a blue patch in the upper edge of the wing and a green speculum. The three hens bore all the markings of Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*).

Edna Applebury joined us, and we observed the Cinnamon Teal drake and three questionable hens swimming and feeding for about 20 minutes. The four teal were still on the lake when we departed, but were not located on subsequent days.

[This appears to be the fourth sight record of this Western species in North Carolina.—DEPT. ED.]

## **A Summer Sighting of Cooper's Hawks Near Chapel Hill, N.C.**

ROBERT P. TEULINGS

ELIZABETH P. TEULINGS  
Route 2, Chapel Hill, N.C.

JAMES O. PULLMAN

Chapel Hill, N.C.

30 August 1974

On 29 June 1974, while hiking along New Hope Creek in the Korstian Division of the Duke Forest, Orange County, N.C., a relatively undisturbed area between Durham and Chapel Hill, we saw three large accipiters soaring and diving above us. Their calls were heard as the birds drifted slowly eastward, remaining in view for about 1 minute. Several visual marks including the size, tail shape, and profile of the head-shoulder area