

suggested that the birds were Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*). Subsequent comparison of the calls with recordings confirmed the identification.

Local summer records for the Cooper's Hawk are extremely rare, as is generally the case for the North Carolina piedmont. A recently compiled annotated checklist for the Chapel Hill area (Charles H. Blake, unpub.) cites a 1935 breeding record. No recent summer sightings have been reported.

## Franklin's Gull in South Carolina

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On the morning of 8 May 1975, I was scanning a large plowed field about 1 mile SE of Townville, Anderson County, S.C., when I spotted a gull following a tractor that was replowing the field. With the aid of 7 X 50 binoculars, I immediately identified the bird as a Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) in full breeding plumage. I watched the gull for approximately 5 minutes as close as 100 yards, and during this time it was either circling over the field or following the tractor, hawking for insects. The dark hood, slate-colored mantle, conspicuous white rear border of the wings, and characteristic white stripe near the wing tip were easily seen in flight. Even though the undersides of the wings were white, the white stripe near the tip was easily visible from below as a "window." The black tips to the primaries were visible from above, but they were more reduced in this bird than in those pictured in field guides, which show a narrow white stripe and a broader black tip.

About 20 minutes after the above observation, I returned to the field. The tractor had stopped running, and the bird was sitting in the field, occasionally feeding and occasionally circling in the air for a few seconds before returning to the ground. I was able to examine the resting bird closely through a 20X scope at approximately 100 yards. The legs were blackish, the bill was deep red, and a white eye ring (broken behind the eye and incomplete in front) was conspicuous. The tips of the folded wings were mostly white.

After watching the gull for several minutes, I returned to Clemson University and brought Frank Moore and Sidney Gauthreaux, who had a camera mounted on his Questar scope, to the field 3 hours later to obtain photographic documentation. Despite extensive searching, we were unable to locate the gull in the field, in surrounding fields, or on nearby Lake Hartwell.

Only one other record of the Franklin's Gull is known for the Carolinas. An immature was "wounded by gun shot at the Catawba River, within 12 miles of Charlotte, N.C.," on 13 October 1952 (*Chat*, 17:23-24). Although *South Carolina Bird Life* (Sprunt and Chamberlain, 1970) carries this record, it also states that the bird actually was found in North Carolina. Even though the 1952 bird probably visited South Carolina (there is no way of knowing for certain), the Franklin's Gull I observed near Townville is the first definitely within the state, and one of the relatively few spring records for the Atlantic Coast states.

## Bell's Vireo Seen in Wake County, N.C.

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About 18:00 on 10 August 1974, my husband and I heard an unfamiliar finch-like song in the yard of our home 3.5 miles N of Zebulon, Wake County, N.C. The mysterious finch flew away before we could identify it; so Jack went into the house, leaving