



Roundtable

... with Louis C. Fink

New Policy for Use of Scientific Names in Chat

Beginning with the present issue of *Chat*, scientific names of birds no longer will be used in major papers involving a long list of species presented in A.O.U. *Check-list* order and conforming to the common names appearing in the current edition of the *Check-list* (1957) and its published supplement (*Auk* 90:411-419) with corrections (*Auk* 90:887). The editors believe this policy will offer substantial savings on the cost of printing useful regional bird lists without significantly changing the over-all quality of the journal.

Authors should continue to supply scientific names for plants and animals (1) in formal habitat descriptions, (2) in General Field Notes or major papers involving only a few avian species, (3) in all discussions of forms below the species level, and (4) in any context where the common name might be inadequate for insuring accurate identification.

A Birder's Guide to Georgia

This 32-page, 6" x 9" book has been published by the Georgia Ornithological Society. The price is not quoted, but the book may be ordered from G.O.S., P.O. Box 362, Atlanta, Ga. 30301. Daniel W. Hans edited the work, which includes contributions from good birders all over the State. Each area meets the criteria of being open to the public and accessible to persons of average physical ability. Directions include the downtown parks of Atlanta, the Federal Wildlife Refuges, choice spots in the mountains, Okefenokee, and many more. A feature is a list of special birds like the Limpkin, Budgerigar, Bachman's Sparrow, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper, with directions for finding them.

Unusual Wood Duck Nesting Location

On 6 May 1975 Mrs. M.D. Rakes observed six young Wood Ducks leaving their nest from a black oak tree. The nest hole was in a rotted portion of the tree trunk where a limb had been removed. The height of the hole was approximately 20 feet from the ground.

The tree is in the Rakes' front yard in a densely populated residential district of Eden, N.C. (Rockingham County). The nearest source of water is the Dan River, which is 1 1/2 miles (straight line distance) from the nest site. If the straight line path was used by the ducks, they would have had to cross eight city streets, two main highways, and a railroad track.

Why a Wood Duck hen would choose this location is open to speculation. The best guess is that there is probably a serious shortage of suitable nest sites in this area.—EDWARD E. BURROUGHS, 921 Seymour Court, Eden, N.C. 27288.

[Ed.'s Note: This is an interesting trait of Wood Ducks and suggests that householders might erect nesting boxes even if water is not near. Herbert K. Job observed the trait 40 years ago. Writing in *Birds of America* (Garden City Publishing Co., 1936), Mr. Job said,

"The regular nesting site is in a hollow tree, preferably in the woods, and it is often quite a distance back from water." Apparently, the young have no trouble flopping out of the nest and following Mother to the nearest stream.]

Request for Information: Carolina Junco

Colored plastic bands have been used on Dark-eyed (Carolina) Juncos in the Grandfather Mountain area of Avery County, N.C., during the summer of 1975. The birds have been banded near State Route 105, north of Linville.

Eight colors have been used, including Red, White, Royal Blue, Sky Blue, Yellow, Dark Green, Lime Green, and Black.

If any of these birds are seen, the observer is asked to record:

- (1) Date
- (2) Place
- (3) Any notable behavior of the bird in relation to others it may be with, and whether with banded birds.
- (4) Combination of color bands, reading top to bottom, and left to right as the bird faces the observer: i.e. Right leg, Red over (Silver) F & W band. Left leg, Royal blue over yellow.

Details should be sent to: Margery Plymire, Box 306, Linville, N.C. 28646.

Camping Programs for Adults

Two organizations long noted for outstanding summer camping programs for young people now offer activities for families and groups of adults. Educational and recreational opportunities range from tennis, horseback riding, and the study of birds, wild flowers, or nature photography to whitewater canoeing and year-round backpacking trips. For free brochures write Frank T. Schell, Director, Mondamin Wilderness Adventures, P.O. Box 8, Tuxedo, N.C. 28784, and John Trott, Director, Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22303.

600 Club

600 Club direction has been assumed by Terry S. Moore, Apt. 10-F, 1185 Collier Road N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30318. The annual voluntary contribution is five dollars for one person, seven dollars for husband and wife. The first Earle R. Greene Memorial Plaque was awarded to Mrs. Harriett DiGioia of Dalton, Ga.

Edwin I. Stearns (with 657 species) appears to be the only representative from the Carolinas to make the 600 list.

Our Inadequate Language

This reporter has made his living for years by using words, but I now find the language insufficient to describe my latest field trip, and my companion, Herman. You see, "companion" is an inadequate word: Herman brought enthusiasm to the walk; he raced abroad to scare up difficult sparrows; he ran ahead and then came back every few minutes to see if I was all right. Herman is a dog (but so much more than the word expresses) of uncertain ancestry. "Uncertain," perhaps; mixed certainly and Herman couldn't care less.

He said nothing for the 5 hours we were in the field, but his grin told how much he enjoyed bird-watching. "Grin" is not the right word for the expression of joy on Herman's face. His whole body radiated pleasure, and I can't think of a term for that.

Herman was brought along by a man you would like to call his master, but that was not the relationship. It was more of a partnership, and I can't say who gave the orders or who had the most fun. The man drove the car, but Herman was smarter: he jumped in the trunk each time we moved, and slept until the next stop. Because Herman covered so much more territory as he ran, I'm pretty sure he had a longer list for the day than the two of us. We used our eyes and our ears to identify birds; Herman also used his nose and smelled all sorts

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in the same locality in the state, there are fairly definite differences in elevation and habitat for breeding. I have found the Blue-winged only between 1650 and 1800 feet. Although my Golden-winged records for Cherokee and Clay Counties have been between 1650 and 3000 feet, over most of North Carolina the species is scarce below 2000 feet, reaching peak abundance above 3000 feet. The Blue-winged prefers somewhat earlier stages of brushy field habitat than does the Golden-winged, and the latter species is usually found on much steeper slopes than those where I've seen the Blue-winged. The Blue-winged prefers overgrown fields with shrubs and saplings in the 5 to 12 foot high range, whereas the Golden-winged likes fields grown up with saplings in the 8 to 30 foot range, especially where the saplings are black locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*).

In summary, my observations and published records show no evidence of hybridization between the Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers in the North Carolina mountains in summer, unlike the interbreeding populations from West Virginia and Maryland northward. Birders should try to observe singing warblers of these species to determine whether the birds are purebreeds, hybrids, or in some intermediate plumage. Any records of hybrids and birds in intermediate plumages should be published, especially if they are of nesting season birds.

CBC ROUNDTABLE

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of things which we missed. We picked up a few bones and tried to identify the bird; Herman took one bite and was satisfied.

Herman ought to be a member of the Carolina Bird Club, but again the word fails. Herman isn't a "member" of anything; he's complete unto himself. It was great to know you, Herman.

Birds Can Be Fun in Australia

Friends in Sydney have shared with me a nature column by Vincent Serventy; reading makes me want to go "down under." In the South Perth Zoo, wild wagtails were introduced into a cage of captive wagtails. Confrontation took place, with the birds expanding their white "eyebrows" as a threat gesture. People in Auckland picked up a great petrel (wing spread over 6 feet) which had apparently flown from the Falkland Islands off South America and was exhausted. The pied currawong rolls on its back and plays with a ball like a juggler. The rock warbler is not found far from Sydney, but nests commonly around homes, or even in them; it is a ground-feeder. There is a nightjar (nighthawk) which looks like a small owl; yes, it's called the owlet-nightjar.

Well, I'll never add these to my list, but it's fun to read about them. The friend who sends the newspaper clippings says that large parrots are eating all the seed in their feeders. Pity.

Peregrine Falcons to be Checked

John Horn (of the Department of Botany at Duke) has sent a report about Peregrine Falcons bred in captivity by Professor Tom Cade at Cornell University. Sixteen have been released and several have been seen on their way south. Each bird has a blue band on one leg, and some have six-inch wire radio antennae trailing from their tails. If you see one, notify Dr. Tom Cade at 607-256-5056.