

scrutiny, carefully checking our observations against the diagnostic characters noted in the field guides. Each birder was impressed with the relative smallness of the bird, which was smaller than a loon or scoter. The bill was pointed and without any bulge or bluntness as in that of a scoter. In coloration the bird was over-all dark gray to black with no white showing except in the wing. At one time the bird rose in the water and shook both wings, thus revealing not only the grayish color of the entire upper wing surface but also the almost pure white wing patches on the fore part of the wings. We agreed without question that the bird was a Black Guillemot. Unfortunately, the bird was too far offshore to permit documenting the record with a recognizable photograph.

The appearance of the Black Guillemot at Huntington Beach corresponds with the normal mid-April northward movement of birds wintering off the Massachusetts coast (Bent, *Life Histories of North American Diving Birds*, 1919, p. 161). A severe storm system that occurred in the New England states shortly before the date of the local sighting may have displaced a migrant southward.

A Black Guillemot has been recorded once previously in South Carolina. The sighting took place on 21 September 1958 and was reported by Alexander Sprunt Jr. in a letter that appeared in J. Douglas Donehue's "Woods and Waters" column in the *Charleston News and Courier* dated 24 September 1958. Sprunt's letter reads in part: "Mr. Alex Mikell, while walking the beach on Morris Island saw, on the jetties which intrude upon the sands there, a bird unknown to him. He approached to such close quarters that he actually touched it, after studying it for several minutes. His very clear description leaves no room for any doubt that it was a Black Guillemot. It was described as about a foot long; black, with some white edging on some feathers; large white shoulder patches and brilliant red feet. It sat quietly on one of the rocks and seemed somewhat weak but, when touched by Mr. Mikell it took off and flew seaward. As far as the writer knows, this is the first time the species has ever been observed in the state." The Black Guillemot is included in the 1970 Revised Edition of *South Carolina Bird Life* (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1949), appearing in E. Milby Burton's Hypothetical List (p. 641) on the basis of the newspaper article quoted above.

## Monk Parakeets in South Carolina

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On 10 April 1976, I was informed by Gurdon Tarbox, Director of Brookgreen Gardens, Georgetown County, S.C., that Monk Parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*) had been seen by Preston Pearson on Sandy Island Road (SR 362) west of the Gardens area. Mr. Tarbox also saw the birds the evening of 9 April 1976, in about the same location.

I visited the site (300-400 yards NW of US 17; 33° 30' N, 79° 07' W) at about 0930 on 10 April 1976 and saw seven Monk Parakeets fly from the roadside into a stand of small willows bordering the road. After some milling around, all of the birds landed in the same tree. Some promptly went to sleep, while the others preened. One of several color photographs (slides) shows three of the birds asleep on a branch.

I was unable to locate the birds on 11 April 1976, but on 12 April 1976, my wife Renée and I saw them at a site not far from the original location. I have not seen them since, although some of the boys in the "village" report seeing about five each day. Four or five birds were seen on 19 April by Mr. and Mrs. Tromater of Richmond, Virginia, on US 17 about 2 miles N of the original site. The birds apparently roam over a wide area which encompasses both the road and the village. How long the birds have been in the area is uncertain. One man reported that they were first seen about the middle of March, while others reported seeing them about 2 weeks later.

There is no doubt concerning the identification of the birds as Monk Parakeets. The color slides show clearly the distinguishing green back, long tail, blue-green wings, and the gray "cowl" or "hood" on the face and breast. I have also examined a dead bird that was found on a road and brought to me. This specimen, apparently a "road-kill", will be donated to the Charleston Museum for preparation as a study skin.

These sightings constitute the third record of the Monk Parakeet in South Carolina. A single adult bird was observed by Julian Harrison at Fort Johnson on James Island near Charleston, S.C., on 2 June 1974; several weeks later Perry Nugent saw another at the USDA Vegetable Breeding Laboratory near Charleston, S.C., on 17 July 1974 (*Chat* 38:97).

## Two Records of the Clay-colored Sparrow from the Eastern Piedmont of North Carolina in Fall

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The Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) was first recorded in North Carolina on 19 September 1963 when Elizabeth D. Peacock (*Chat* 28:98) banded one near Duck in coastal Dare County. Paul W. Sykes Jr. (unpublished Master's thesis, N.C. State University, 1967) found the species to be an uncommon transient during his study of fall land bird migration in the Bodie-Pea Island section of Dare County. He saw nine Clay-colored Sparrows between 5 October and 14 November 1965. Lee Jones (*Audubon Field Notes* 22:25) found two at Cedar Island, Carteret County, on 30 September 1967. Subsequent records (*Chat* 35:34, 37:33, and 38:29) have established the regularity of this sparrow of the Great Plains as a fall transient in the northern part of coastal North Carolina between mid-September and mid-November. South of Cape Hatteras and inland, however, records are too scarce for the species to be considered anything more than accidental.

Robert and Elizabeth Teulings (*Audubon Field Notes* 22:25) netted a Clay-colored Sparrow on 14 October 1967 at the Mason Farm, which is located adjacent to Finley Golf Course just SE of Chapel Hill, Orange County, N.C. The Teulings were conducting a banding demonstration for a group of Carolina Bird Club members attending the fall meeting at Chapel Hill. The Clay-colored Sparrow was caught in a mist net set along one of the multiflora rose hedges dividing the corn fields on the farm. The bird had a thin white median line on the crown (Figure 1) and a distinctly buff-colored rump. In addition, the Teulings noted the grayish nape, or "collar," a characteristic of the species. The immature bird had an incompletely ossified skull and a wing chord of 58 mm. Ida Suttman photographed the bird (Figure 1).

The second inland fall record of the Clay-colored Sparrow for the state occurred on 23 October 1975 about 10 miles S of Louisburg in Franklin County. About 16:30 EDT, Eloise Potter stopped just E of US 401 to examine a flock of blackbirds in a soybean field on SR 1101. Some of the blackbirds flew into pines at the edge of a pasture across the road, displacing a small bird. Through a 7 X 50 binocular at a distance of about 20 feet, Potter saw in profile only the head of a sparrow that had such a wide buffy-yellow superciliary stripe, rich mahogany-brown auriculars, and distinct malar line that it appeared to be a Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). When the bird flew to a nearby tree, it revealed no breast spot or white in the tail, thus eliminating that species from consideration. The bird perched in another pine with only one wing, part of the back, and all of the tail visible. The wings were folded over the rump, hiding most of it. The brown wing had two distinct wing bars, the light-