

ness of the black bill were approximately the same as in the Killdeer. Legs, like those of the Killdeer, were a grayish flesh color rather than yellow. Across its breast the bird had a single wide sepia stripe just a little lighter shade of brown than the mantle. The breast stripe narrowed in the middle, suggesting that the bird was a hatching year Wilson's Plover rather than an adult female.

The Upland Sandpipers and Wilson's Plover were seen during a period of almost daily afternoon thundershowers, while the American Golden Plovers appeared the day after the passage of a cold front.

The Harris farm lies along the crest of a ridge between Tar River and one of its major tributaries, Cypress Creek, both of which flow in a southeasterly direction through eastern Franklin County. One pasture contains a water hole and a pond while the other has three ponds. This large expanse of grassland (approximately 2 square miles) seems to attract a wide variety of fall migrants that favor open country. Two immature Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*) were present on 16 August and four on 26 August. Two Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*) circled one of the ponds briefly on 24 August. An American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) was present on 11 August both here and at a farm on the other side of Cypress Creek. A Merlin (*F. columbarius*) was an early migrant at the Harris farm on 24 August. The brown-plumaged falcon, either a female or a hatching year bird, was on the ground where it appeared to be consuming prey. It flew first to a powerline, then to a fence, and finally into the woods. Light conditions were not good, and the Merlin never remained in one place long enough to permit careful study; but the dark brown mantle, indistinct facial pattern, heavily streaked underparts, and barred tail lacking rusty coloration clearly separated it from the smaller American Kestrel and the larger Peregrine Falcon (*F. peregrinus*).

Of the sightings mentioned above, that of the Wilson's Plover is the most noteworthy because this species rarely strays from the immediate coastal region. E. Milby Burton (*South Carolina Bird Life* 1970, p. 597) was surprised to find one feeding in a rice field several miles from the sea on 10 May 1952. This appears to be the only published inland record from South Carolina. Robert P. Holmes III (*Chat* 10:17) lists three Wilson's Plovers seen on 18 September 1945 among various shorebirds, including the Semipalmated Plover, recorded during an unspecified period of time at Mount Olive, Wayne County, N.C. Mount Olive lies about 120 miles W of Ocracoke Island and 60-65 miles NW of the nearest beachfront. Holmes is an excellent field observer who is thoroughly familiar with the shorebirds normally found in the Carolinas. I consider his record acceptable despite the unfortunate absence of details in the published account. The Wilson's Plover is not mentioned in R.J. Hader's "Species List of Birds of Wake County, North Carolina" (*Chat* 33:53-71), and the author informs me that he is not aware of any local sighting since publication of the county list in 1969. Thus, to the best of my knowledge, the Wilson's Plover seen in Franklin County on 30 August 1975 is the first record from piedmont North Carolina and the first inland sighting for the state to be reported with full details of field marks and viewing conditions.

Razorbill at Huntington Beach State Park and Pawleys Island, S.C.

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On 9 January 1976, Mark Bara and I surveyed the ocean beaches at Huntington Beach State Park and Garden City, S.C., for oil-soaked loons and other species. Bara, a biologist with the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department,

had been requested by the Department to seek evidence of afflicted birds.

At the State Park near the north parking lot, a single dead Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) was spotted on the beach above the high tide mark. Simultaneously, we noted lying nearby a smaller bird which proved to be a fairly well-preserved Razorbill (*Alca torda*). This bird was heavily oiled, its wing tips, tail, and feet being so oil-soaked that they were matted together. Bara took photographs of the bird at the spot where we found it, and I later took a number of additional photographs of the specimen at my home.

Another Razorbill was found on the beach at Pawleys Island, about 0.4 mile S of the South Causeway. It was found and reported to me on 1 May 1976 by Bobby DesPortes of Route 2, Hopkins, S.C. This bird also had been heavily oiled, and its body was badly decayed and dessicated. Apparently it had been in the same oil slick that destroyed the Huntington Beach bird. The Pawleys Island specimen will be given to the Charleston Museum.

Three of the five previous records of the Razorbill in South Carolina summarized by Sprunt and Chamberlain (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1970, p. 284 and 609) are based on oil-soaked birds. One found 12 January 1948, on the beach at Pawleys Island is now a specimen in the collection of the Charleston Museum. Another found 9 March 1958, on the beach at Sullivans Island (*Audubon Field Notes* 12:270) was examined but not retained. A third was found 15 February 1963, on Bulls Island (*Chat* 28:51). Of the remaining records, a single bird was observed 12 March 1964, about 30 nautical miles off Charleston (*Chat* 30:26), and a flock of 12 was observed 19 December 1964, 7 miles E of Tybee Island, Georgia (*Oriole* 33:1). One additional, unpublished record of an oil-soaked bird is available, a specimen found at Edisto Beach by Roger Lambert on 17 January 1970 (*Lesser Squawk*, Charleston Natural History Society Newsletter, Vol. 21, No. 2). Burton (Supplement, *South Carolina Bird Life*, 1970, p. 609) states that Razor-billed Auks venture close to shore only if oil-soaked or ill.

Most field guides and other standard sources give Long Island, N.Y. as the southern limit of the Razorbill's winter range. A few give North Carolina as the southern limit. That this species frequently winters offshore in South Carolina waters is evidenced clearly by the records summarized in this report.

Black Guillemot on South Carolina Coast in Spring: A Second Sight Record for the State

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While birding on the north beach at Huntington Beach State Park, Georgetown County, S.C., on 17 April 1975, five observers saw what can only be described as a Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*). Evelyn Dabbs, Charlotte Waggett, John Waggett, Phillip Waggett, and I noticed a bird, at first thought to be a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*), swimming about 500-600 feet offshore parallel to the beach. Soon realizing that the bird definitely was not a loon or a scoter, we studied it carefully with binoculars and with a zoom Balscope adjusted to the best power (40X). The ocean was relatively calm, yet there is always wave action some distance from the beach. The bird, swimming leisurely from right to left of the observers, alternately rose on the crest of the swells and disappeared in the trough of the waves. We watched the bird from about 1400 to 1430, during which time we moved from the beach to a dune to get a better view. The day was clear, and light conditions were excellent with the sun shining brightly behind us.

Being generally familiar with loons, scoters, and other oceanic birds that sit upon the water in the manner of the bird before us, we gave the unusual individual the closest