

By my observations the diving was obviously limited to the activity of the schools of fish. When the fish were inactive, the egrets stalked the shallow edges in a normal egret fashion.

[Dept. Ed.—This type of feeding behavior has been recorded for several species of long-legged waders. It appears, however, to be seldom used. I know of no previous reports of this behavior in North Carolina waders.]

Bald Eagle Seen in Forsyth County, N.C.

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On 12 September 1975 a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) in full adult plumage was sighted in the southern part of Forsyth County. The magnificent bird was first seen at 0600 by Wayne E. Nifong, owner of a dairy farm. Mr. Nifong observed the eagle from approximately 100 yards. The bird was feeding on a dead carp beside a very muddy ½-acre "catch-basin" pond. When the bird became aware of Mr. Nifong's presence, it flew immediately to a large pine tree. The eagle returned several times to feed on the carp, always selecting a pine tree for perching between feedings.

Mr. Nifong notified the local newspaper, the *Winston-Salem Sentinel*, of the occurrence. The *Sentinel* sent a reporter, Dee Wilson, and a photographer, Allie Brown, to investigate the report. They, in turn, saw and photographed the eagle and then called the local Audubon Society for confirmation. Fran M. Baldwin and I drove immediately to the farm, arriving just as a violent thunderstorm broke. After waiting 30 minutes for the lightning to subside, we made a thorough investigation of the area in a heavy rainfall, but we were unable to locate the bird. Examination of the photographer's film negatives, however, left no doubt about the sighting.

We returned to the Nifong farm at daybreak the next day to recheck the area and to examine the remains of the carp. This investigation and visits on several subsequent days yielded no additional sighting or information.

This is the first confirmed sighting of a Bald Eagle in Forsyth County. One of the photographs submitted to document the occurrence appears on the cover of this issue of *The Chat*.

Limpkin Observed at Lake Waccamaw, N.C.

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About 1730 on 7 September 1975, we watched a Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) for several minutes at the head of the Waccamaw River in Columbus County, N.C. The bird emerged from the shrubs at the edge of the swamp just below the small dam at the outlet of Lake Waccamaw. Although we did not have our binoculars with us, we could see the bird clearly about 30 yards away. It stalked erratically along the edge of the water, jabbed at the ground, and once picked up a dark object, perhaps a snail. As it walked, it periodically jerked its dark tail downward. When one of us approached within 20 yards, it flew to seclusion in the shrubs nearer shore. In flight,

it held its neck stretched forward and down at an angle; its legs trailed behind; and its wings flapped stiffly above its back.

Its long, slender neck and long legs somewhat suggested a heron's shape, but its neck lacked the herons' double bend, and its beak, though not notably long or curved, did not taper strongly to a point like a heron's. Its size was near that of a Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*). Its plumage was dark brown throughout, closely streaked with white on head, neck, and foreparts of the body. Its legs were blackish, its beak dark, paler toward the base. The white streaks in the plumage were distinctly visible at a distance of 20 yards. No other marks or white patches appeared on the under surface, rump, or flight feathers. Immature night herons, the only other brown waders of comparable size with white streaking, would have much different profiles and behavior, as well as spotted wings and paler legs. The jerking tail is particularly distinctive of Limpkins (A. Sprunt Jr. and E.B. Chamberlain, 1949, *South Carolina Bird Life*, Univ. South Carolina Press, Columbia).

Outside Florida in the southeastern states, the Limpkin occurs in small numbers in extreme southeastern Georgia (T.D. Burleigh, 1958, *Georgia Birds*, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman) and on rare occasions in coastal South Carolina (Sprunt and Chamberlain, *op. cit.*). *Audubon Field Notes* and *American Birds* report only three occurrences of this species since 1948 north of the Altamaha River, Georgia: one each in Tennessee (*Aud. Field Notes*, 15: 474), Maryland, and Virginia (*Amer. Birds*, 25: 717, 841), all in late spring.

At the time of our observation, we were aware that Limpkins would not be expected in North Carolina. Our account of the bird's behavior and appearance is summarized from our field notebook. Because we know the species well from several seasons in South America, we feel confident in our identification, although the absence of objective substantiation makes this record hypothetical.

[Dept. Ed.—This is the first report of a Limpkin occurring in North Carolina. With the publication of this record, this species can be placed on the hypothetical list for North Carolina.]

A Bridled Tern From North Carolina

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On 3 October 1971, after Hurricane Ginger, David Hughes and Gary Williamson found a Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus recognita*) dead on the bridge at Oregon Inlet, Dare County, N.C. The bird, a female (ovaries 4x8 mm) weighing 90.6 g, was very emaciated, and the skull was crushed. It is in the bird collections at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural History (No. 4066). The identification was verified by Roxie C. Layborne of the U.S. National Museum of Natural History. Although this tropical species has been found offshore with some regularity in summer, this appears to be the first specimen actually obtained for the state. A second specimen, possibly blown ashore by the same storm, was found by Gilbert Grant, identified by Mrs. Laybourne, deposited in the National Museum of Natural History, and reported in *Chat* (37:23-24).