

Spring Shorebirds at a Partially Drained Lake Near Fayetteville, N.C.

P.J. CRUTCHFIELD
901 Montclair Road
Fayetteville, N.C. 28304

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The note by Pullman (Chat 38:39-40) suggests that similar data collected at Fayetteville, N.C., during April and May of 1975 might be useful.

McFayden Lake is an impoundment which is located about 1 mile NW of the city of Fayetteville in Cumberland County, N.C. Normally, the lake covers about 115 acres. It has been partially drained for two seasons. The lake presently covers approximately 20 acres with large areas of exposed sand and mud flats.

The period of observation for this report was from 22 April to 13 May 1975. All of the trips were made during the late afternoon or evening except the trip of 1 May which occurred during the morning. Observations were made with the aid of a pair of 7x50 binoculars. I was accompanied on 1 May by Henry Rankin Jr. and 6 May by Mr. Rankin and his daughter, Douglas Rankin, both of whom are experienced bird-watchers.

The shorebird observations are summarized in the following table:

SPECIES	DATES				
	22 April	29 April	1 May	6 May	13 May
Killdeer	0	2-4	2-4	2-4	2
Spotted Sandpiper	0	0	0	3-6	2-4
Solitary Sandpiper	1	3-6	2-4	2	0
Greater Yellowlegs	0	2-4	2	0	0
Least Sandpiper	0	25-30	5-6	0	0

The numbers given are approximate. The nature of the terrain made exact counts difficult. Two other impoundments were surveyed during this same period. One impoundment, Lake Rim, is located in Cumberland County off the Raeford Road. No shorebirds were seen. Forest Lake which is located in the city of Fayetteville off Raeford Road was also surveyed on each trip. Only one Solitary Sandpiper was found.

Although these species of shorebirds are not necessarily strangers to this area, their occurrence at a drained pond may be noteworthy from the point of view of concentration of numbers and species at inland sites.

Some Observations of the Common Raven as a Predator

BEN A. SANDERS
U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 2750
Asheville, N.C. 28802

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There are few published reports of the food habits of the Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) population which exists in the southern Appalachians (Harlow et. al. 1975, Murray 1949). These studies, as well as studies in other sections of the United States, have concluded that ravens are primarily scavengers; but others have suggested that the raven may also be a predator (Craighead and Craighead 1956, White and Cade 1971, and Dorn 1972).

In late May 1974, I observed a lone raven capture a live snake on Tennent Mountain in the Balsam Range of Pisgah National Forest. My attention was first directed to the raven by its croaking calls, but its unusual behavior caused me to observe its activities closely through binoculars.

The raven repeatedly dropped to the ground and then flapped in a tight circle around a small, rocky area of the mountain. It was obvious that the raven was attempt-