

bills that had not yet begun to turn bright orange, and none of the three had prominent black knobs at the base of the bill.

When I left Lake Sagamore, I asked the security guard if anyone had stocked the lake with swans. He was unaware of their presence. The next day the birds could not be found on the lake. I assume they departed with the other transient waterfowl that had been present on 2 December.

There are several published records of free-flying and apparently wild Mute Swans in North Carolina. Eugene Pond reported three in the bight of Cape Lookout on 16 November 1966 (Chat 31:27). Robert Ruiz and party found one on Lake Julian in Buncombe County on 14 April 1973 (Chat 37:108). Louis Fink noted single fall transients at Rocky Mount in October of 1974 and 1975 (Am. Birds 30:52).

I suggest that the Mute Swan be given hypothetical status on the state bird list until additional records make clear the origin of the birds found in North Carolina.

Goshawk at Shining Rock Wilderness Area, N.C.

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At approximately 0915 on 3 April 1976 I observed an adult Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) at shining rocks in the Shining Rock Wilderness Area. The bird, first seen rising out of the trees below, flew up along the ridge for some distance before dropping down, out of sight. From above, the bird was slaty blue on its back, wings, and tail. The long tail had several wide bands across its upper side. As the bird rose, several times it flashed a very pale silver or white under surface. The alternating flap and soar combination coupled with long tail and short wings identified the bird as an Accipiter. The silver breast plus very large size eliminates the smaller Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

Having spent much time taking hawk counts at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, I am quite familiar with this species. Other field marks aiding in identification include the bird's general behavior. The bird soared more than it flapped, holding the wings flat across the shoulders and dropping the wing tips. The flapping of this bird was powerful and not hurried, and the wings had a tapered appearance. These characteristics are all considered classic for the species. It is also interesting to note that the bird came out of a heavy spruce and hemlock forested area, the Goshawk's traditional breeding habitat.

Franklin's Gull at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C.

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On the afternoon of 26 September 1976, we were birding at Huntington Beach State Park, Georgetown County, S.C. Near Murrell's Inlet at the northern end of the park, we found a flock of at least 300 birds resting on the beach. The majority of these were Laughing Gulls and Royal Terns, but also present were American Oystercatchers; Black Skimmers; Forster's, Common, and Sandwich Terns; and Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. While scanning the flock with a 30X Balscope from a distance of about 150 feet, we noticed in the midst of some Laughing Gulls one bird that immediately stood out from the rest and appeared to be a Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*).

The bird was noticeably smaller than the Laughing Gulls, and its head pattern was strikingly different. The remnant of the black hood was more extensive, especially around the eye and on the nape; a distinct eye ring was also noted. The bill was black and roughly of the same proportions as that of the Laughing Gulls, but heavier than that of a Bonaparte's. A row of small diamond-shaped marks was present in the distal portion of the folded wing, contrasting with the black background of the wingtips except for their very ends which were white. There was not as much white, however, as we have seen in some illustrations of Franklin's Gull in breeding plumage. The mantle was at least as dark a gray