



# Roundtable

... with Louis C. Fink

## Beaver Dam Reservoir in Wake County

The new Beaver Dam Reservoir in northern Wake County promises to be an interesting bird-finding area. About 170 species have been seen in the area already even though there has not been an intensive search for migrant land birds. The area is notable for the unusual species it attracts — with such interesting visitors as Short-eared Owl, Rough-legged Hawk, Snow Bunting, and Harris' Sparrow — and for larger concentrations of marsh birds and raptors than one is accustomed to in Wake County.

The reservoir lies in a north-south direction north of the Neuse River and east of NC 50. It is accessible at two points. The first area is at the dam and is reached after a short walk east of NC 50 on a black-topped road (closed by a gate) 0.5 mile N of the Neuse bridge. Here the water is open and deeper than in the area described below and may be expected to attract diving ducks. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers can also be seen here in the pines. The second area lies on both sides of a causeway crossed by Beaver Dam Road (SR 1900) 1.2 miles E of NC 50. The intersection of Beaver Dam Road and NC 50 is 3 miles N of the Neuse bridge at a hamlet called Sandy Plains. The causeway is an excellent area for marsh and other water birds. Sparrows can be seen in the nearby bushy, weedy fields. This is also an especially good vantage point for seeing hawks and swallows. On the east end of the causeway Beaver Dam Road proceeds in a generally southeasterly direction and within a mile another smaller, marshy branch of the reservoir is crossed. A dirt road (SR 1906) leaves the end of the causeway and proceeds in a northeasterly direction. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers may be seen in open pines along this road.

The reservoir filled to capacity during the autumn of 1976. There are numerous no-trespassing signs at some of the above sites, but it seems that the regulation is not now being applied. Workers at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural History are conducting surveys of the wildlife in the area. Visitors are encouraged to send David S. Lee any unusual observations they make in the area.—CLARK S. OLSON, 4822C Bluebird Court, Raleigh, N.C. 27606

## Two Million Wild Animals

"Serengeti, in East Africa, a piece of land not much larger than the State of Connecticut, is as close to the Garden of Eden as any place in the world. It is still inhabited by some two million wild animals, the last great herds on earth."

Harold T.P. Hayes explores Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania in his book, *The Last Place on Earth* (Stein and Day, Briarcliff Manor, N.Y. 10510, \$10). There is little about birds but a great deal about mammals — and about the German zoologist Bernhard Grzimek, who made the saving of Serengeti his personal crusade. Of particular interest are his discussions of the needs for *big* national parks to save wide-ranging animals like the wildebeests, and of the advisability of "cropping," killing surplus animals to make the

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personal impressions of 50 different birds. Facing each species account is a color portrait of the bird painted by the author, who is one of our country's leading bird artists.

Dr. Sutton notes that he never has seen a sky as blue as a robin's egg, but he is still looking for it. He tells about banding Chimney Swifts. He shares the excitement of finding a female Scissor-tailed Flycatcher sitting on her second clutch of eggs while surrounded by the well-developed young from her first brood of the season. He tells us how Baltimore Orioles feed on bagworms. He makes us recall those rare moments when we, too, saw a bird doing something that surprised us.

If you like Dr. Sutton's style of painting and enjoy hearing naturalists tell about their experiences in the field, you will want to read this book even if you never have been west of the Mississippi River. In fact, 49 of the 50 species illustrated occur in the Carolinas, the Roadrunner being the lone exception.—EFP

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population fit the range. One authority points out that when an animal population declines for any reason, natural forces immediately raise the reproduction rate. This is not an easy book to read (it abounds in words like "parodic" and "paradigmial"), but it is worthwhile.

#### **The Birds of Pleasant Garden**

Mrs. H.M. Draper Jr., of the Piedmont Bird Club, reports that the birds are doing well in Pleasant Garden. In early March, the Eastern Bluebirds were inspecting nesting boxes, having survived the winter. Red-breasted Nuthatches joined Purple Finches and Evening Grosbeaks at the feeders. Five Red-tailed Hawks were over the highway. And at dusk, the Drapers watched the courting antics of an American Woodcock, right in the middle of their chicken yard.

#### **North Carolina Bird List Available**

A *Checklist of North Carolina Birds*, prepared by the CBC Records Committee and the staff of the North Carolina State Museum of Natural History, is now available at the registration desk during CBC meetings and by mail from CBC Headquarters and the Museum. Single copies are 75¢ over-the-counter and \$1.00 by mail. Special rates are offered for bulk sales.

The 40-page booklet is dedicated in memory of Edna Lanier Appleberry, a past president of Carolina Bird Club. Mrs. Appleberry died last January in Wilmington.

So far only three typographical errors have been noted in the new checklist. On page 4 the number of species nesting in North Carolina is given as approximately 290, but the correct number is about 190. Following the Mandarin Duck on page 12, the dot should be deleted from the column headed "Birds, NC '42." The footnote listing the two hybrid warblers (Lawrence's and Brewster's) was inadvertently omitted from page 29.

In a state with lots of active bird watchers, any published list becomes out-dated quickly. Several first specimens for the state have been collected since the type was set, and the current issue of *Chat* adds the American Avocet to our list of breeding birds. Members of the Records Committee hope that the next edition of the North Carolina bird list will be similar to the excellent one published by Georgia Ornithological Society.