

winters in India, Southeast Asia, Australia, and around the perimeter of the Mediterranean (Peterson, Mountfort, and Hollman, 1954, A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe; Ali and Ripley, 1969, Handbook of Birds of India and Pakistan, Vol. 2). There are two recognized subspecies, but they are indistinguishable in the field (Ali and Ripley, op. cit.). In North America, the species is known only from Newfoundland and Massachusetts (Auk 85:500). In winter plumage, this godwit closely resembles the Hudsonian. The axillars provide the best distinguishing feature: they are black in the Hudsonian and white in the Black-tailed. However, two other field marks can be used to separate the two species. In the Black-tailed, the white wing stripe is more prominent than that of the Hudsonian, and the bill is "always straight" (Hall, 1960, A Gathering of Shorebirds; Slater, 1970, A Field Guide to Australian Birds; and MacDonald, 1973, Birds of Australia). According to Slater, "... the white upperwingbar of the Hudsonian is much less distinct [than in the Black-tailed] or almost lacking."

When these two field marks are considered, there appears to be little doubt that the birds at Huntington Beach were Hudsonians. However, birders should be aware of the possibility of the occurrence of the Black-tailed Godwit in the Carolinas. This is especially applicable to wintering birds, for the Black-tailed winters in part at latitudes comparable to ours, while the Hudsonian winters in South America.

Bank Swallows Nesting in North Carolina

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On 18 June 1977, while conducting a Breeding Bird Survey in Wilkes County, N.C., we saw Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) near the town of Roaring River, approximately 13 km (8 miles) NE of North Wilkesboro (Am. Birds 31:1127). They were located along the western bank of the Roaring River, immediately upstream of the river's intersection with NC 268. Eight individuals were seen at that time. After completing the Survey, we returned to the area and watched the swallows for about an hour. They were flying and feeding in the company of approximately 40 nesting Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) and numerous Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustico*). We saw several Bank Swallows fly into burrows, and some birds rested at the entrances of the holes. We returned to the colony in early July of 1977 and found the swallows still active.

On 31 May 1978 we again checked the area and found 12 individuals, four more than the number observed in 1977. The Bank Swallows were again seen entering burrows and resting at the entrances. There appeared to be a decrease in the number of Rough-winged Swallows; only about 15 individuals were seen at this time.

On 2 June 1978 another Breeding Bird Survey was made and two Bank Swallows were noted during the 3-minute count. After the Survey, we returned to the site, at which time one Bank Swallow was observed throwing dirt from a burrow. Photographs were taken of the site, noting that eight burrows were known to be used by the Bank Swallows.

On 18 June 1978 the birds were still in the area, actively feeding and flying into the burrows. During a visit on 26 June, on several occasions it was noted that a bird would wait at the entrance of an excavation until a second bird emerged, whereupon the first bird would then enter. This behavior suggested that the adult birds were feeding their young. On this visit, it was also observed that only three or four Rough-winged Swallows were flying, and none were seen at any of the burrows. However, there was a considerable increase in Bank Swallows, with an estimate of 20 active burrows used by approximately 50 Bank Swallows.

On 14 July 1978 we found the first young birds of this nesting colony. Four fledglings were seen at burrow entrances with two young occupying one of the burrows. While we watched the fledglings, adult Bank Swallows came on numerous occasions and fed the young birds. The yellow gape and down feathers were very much in evidence. As the sand



Fig. 1. Entrances to nest burrows can be seen in the embankment of the Roaring River in Wilkes County, N.C., where Bank Swallows nested in 1977 and 1978.

shifted out of one entrance hole, a fledgling lost its balance and had to make an unexpected maiden flight. After briefly fluttering in the air, the young Bank Swallow safely returned to the adjoining nesting burrow.

The *A.O.U. Check-list* (1957, p. 359) does not have any mention of Bank Swallows nesting in North Carolina, and the species is listed as a rare transient in *Birds of North Carolina* (1959, p. 248). However, a well-documented record by A.L. Pickens (*Chat* 18:53-54) states that T.M. Craig, an ornithology student at the University of South Carolina, found Bank Swallows nesting in the summer of 1926 near Tuxedo, N.C., approximately 6.5 km (4 miles) N of the South Carolina line in the Appalachian Region. Tuxedo is a community on Lake Summit in Henderson County. Apparently the colony found by Craig remained active at least until the late 1940s when Donald J. Nicholson (*Chat* 15:39-41) found Bank Swallows near Lake Summit. Interestingly, he does not report the presence of Rough-winged Swallows.

Bank Swallows habitually locate on the sheer faces of banks, which are typically composed of glacial sand and gravel deposits. This unique habitat is essentially duplicated at the aforementioned Roaring River site (Fig. 1). This situation occurred following the removal several years ago of all vegetation along a 200-meter (660-foot) strip of river bank. This denuded area occupied the downstream terminus of a river bend; erosion and subsequent alluvial deposits altered the geological character of the river bank and created the stratified sequence.

The apparent gradual displacement of our native Rough-winged Swallow by the Bank Swallow at this site is noteworthy and may merit further consideration. The initial sighting on 18 June 1977 revealed many nesting Rough-winged Swallows, but on 14 July 1978 none could be found in the colony of Bank Swallows.

This sighting of Bank Swallows and their related nesting activities constitutes the first documented breeding record from piedmont North Carolina.