

# NOTES ON THE BREEDING BIRDS OF THE CAROLINAS

Compiled by ELOISE F. POTTER

A request for nesting data was made in the Summer 1977 *Chat* (41:58). The response has been gratifying, and the reports published below represent a substantial addition to our knowledge of the breeding birds of the Carolinas.

Some of the lists, such as the one from Forsyth County, N.C., are based on data kept for many years and include only species with documented nesting records. Others are based on survey techniques that are useful indicators of nesting activity, but they may include a few very late northbound migrants or very early southbound birds. Regardless of the format, the reports are appreciated, and we hope that additional lists will be received in the near future.

## SOUTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS

In June of 1977 the South Carolina Division of State Parks canvassed the bird populations of 14 parks located in all the major geographic regions of the state (Fig. 1). The work was done by volunteers with Brian Elliot Cassie serving as coordinator. Although Mr. Cassie has moved back to Massachusetts, copies of the report he compiled are still available through the South Carolina Division of State Parks. The report lists 8457 birds of 145 species and is too lengthy to be published in full. Highlights are given for the parks of the coast, coastal plain, sandhills, and piedmont. Complete lists are given for the two mountain localities because breeding bird data are generally scarce for the southern Appalachians.

Listed below are the parks censused, corresponding symbol on the map (Fig. 1), date of census, and compiler.

Aiken State Park (AK), 11 June, Jeannine Angerman  
Cheraw State Park (CH), 4 June, Brian E. Cassie  
Croft State Park (CR), 4 June, Pat Cart  
Hickory Knob State Park (HK), 11 June, Vivian Smith  
Hunting Island State Park (HI), 12 June, Charles Whitney  
Huntington Beach State Park (HB), 4 June, Pat and Renee Probst  
Kings Mountain State Park (KM), 11 June, Brian E. Cassie  
Lynches River State Park (LR), 11 June, E. Calvin Clyde  
Oconee State Park (OC), 4 June, Sidney Gauthreaux  
Rivers Bridge State Park (RB), 11 June, Carroll Richard  
Sadlers Creek State Park (SC), 4 June, Adair Tedards  
Santee State Park (SA), 4 June, Jack and Lula Stewart  
Sesquicentennial State Park (SQ), 11 June, Kay Sisson  
Table Rock State Park (TR), 11 June, Paul Hamel

Pied-billed Grebe HB 5, AK 1; Anhinga RB 1; Mallard CR 4; Black Duck HB 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk HI 1, CH 1; Cooper's Hawk HB 1; Broad-winged Hawk CH 1, KM 2, CR 1; Purple Gallinule RB 1; Common Gallinule HB 15; American Coot HB 12; Piping Plover HB 1; Forster's Tern HI 1; Ground Dove HB 50; Barn Owl RB 1; Red-headed Woodpecker SA 1, LR 8, AK 2, SQ 4, CH 2, HK 1; Red-cockaded Woodpecker LR 6, CH 3; Eastern Phoebe SA 1; Solitary Vireo KM 2; Black-and-white Warbler AK 2; Swainson's Warbler AK 2, CH 1; Worm-eating Warbler KM 1; Ovenbird CH 1, KM 12; Louisiana Waterthrush RB 1, AK 5, CH 1, KM 5; Kentucky Warbler AK 5, CH 1, KM 8; Boat-tailed Grackle SA 30; Brown-headed Cowbird HB 8, HI 1, SA 3, AK 1, CH 3, HK 4, KM 4, SC 3, CR 18; Bachman's Sparrow LR 6.

Oconee and Table Rock State Parks: Green Heron 1/1, Turkey Vulture 0/18, Black Vulture 0/9, Cooper's Hawk 0/1, Red-tailed Hawk 1/0, Broad-winged Hawk 3/2, Bob-white 5/4, Mourning Dove 2/5, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 7/25, Screech Owl 1/3, Barred Owl

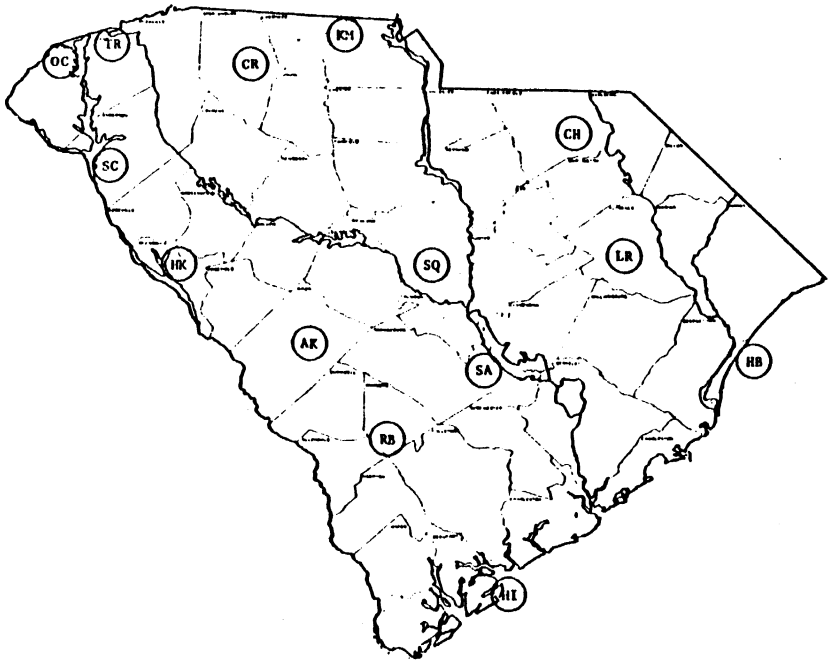


Fig. 1 Locations of South Carolina State Parks censused for breeding birds during June of 1977.

2/0, Whip-poor-will 6/5, Chimney Swift 4/12, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 8/4, Belted Kingfisher 0/1, Common Flicker 6/8, Pileated Woodpecker 19/20, Red-bellied Woodpecker 12/9, Hairy Woodpecker 8/7, Downy Woodpecker 11/18, Great Crested Flycatcher 33/13, Eastern Phoebe 3/17, Acadian Flycatcher 7/14, Eastern Wood Pewee 14/8, Tree Swallow 16/0 (probably late transients), Rough-winged Swallow 0/6, Barn Swallow 0/3, Purple Martin 1/0, Blue Jay 29/27, Common Raven 0/4, Common Crow 38/51, Carolina Chickadee 28/45, Tufted Titmouse 48/30, White-breasted Nuthatch 35/8, Brown-headed Nuthatch 3/1, House Wren 0/1, Carolina Wren 12/23, Mockingbird 0/0, Gray Catbird 4/11, Brown Thrasher 6/9, American Robin 3/4, Wood Thrush 16/35, Eastern Bluebird 0/2, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 4/19, Starling 0/2, White-eyed Vireo 0/3, Yellow-throated Vireo 2/0, Solitary Vireo 12/7, Red-eyed Vireo 51/55, Black-and-white Warbler 15/4, Swainson's Warbler 0/1, Worm-eating Warbler 8/2, Northern Parula 2/4, Black-throated Green Warbler 0/4, Yellow-throated Warbler 4/3, Pine Warbler 18/18, Prairie Warbler 1/1, Ovenbird 72/34, Louisiana Waterthrush 0/1, Common Yellowthroat 0/3, Yellow-breasted Chat 2/1, Hooded Warbler 7/19, Eastern Meadowlark 0/5, Red-winged Blackbird 0/3, Common Grackle 7/21, Brown-headed Cowbird 5/1, Scarlet Tanager 25/10, Summer Tanager 3/7, Cardinal 23/30, Blue Grosbeak 0/3, Indigo Bunting 5/6, American Goldfinch 1/6, Rufous-sided Towhee 2/12, Chipping Sparrow 4/2, Field Sparrow 1/2, Song Sparrow 0/1.

**AVERY COUNTY, N.C.**

**Brown Creeper:** During the 1977 breeding season a nest was located about 7 feet up on the side of a dead hemlock at the edge of the golf course.

**Wood Thrush:** A nest was located about 5 feet above ground in an upright crotch of a rhododendron in mixed woods at Grandfather Mountain. On 7 August 1974 it contained

two eggs; on 11 August it contained two young birds.

Cedar Waxwing: Young left a nest on 22 August 1976.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: A nest was found about 18 inches above ground in a rhododendron planted beside a house at the Grandfather Golf and Country Club, 3 miles N of Linville. Two young were found dead under the nest on 15 June 1977.

Chestnut-sided Warbler and Brown-headed Cowbird: In July of 1976 a single Brown-headed Cowbird fledged from a Chestnut-sided Warbler nest located in a raspberry thicket. The cowbird chick was attended by a single female warbler.

Song Sparrow: One nest contained three eggs on 30 June 1974 and four eggs on 1 July. The first egg pipped on 12 July, and three or four young were in the nest on 15 July. The nest was empty on 3 August.

—MARGERIE PLYMIRE, Box 306, Linville, N.C.

#### WILKES COUNTY, N.C.

Two Breeding Bird Survey routes cover portions of Wilkes County, N.C. One begins southeast of North Wilkesboro near Call and runs generally to the last stop at Absher, which is a little southeast of Doughton Park. The other begins in Surry County, but stops 41 through 50 lie just north of West Elkin in Wilkes County with the last stop being at Little Elkin Creek on SR 1931. The following species have been recorded along these routes in Wilkes County.

Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Bobwhite, Killdeer, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo (single bird near West Elkin, 6 June 1971), Chimney Swift, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher (one seen at intersection of NC 268 and Roaring River and heard calling "fitz-bew" on 18 June 1977), Eastern Wood Pewee, Bank Swallow (see General Field Notes in this issue), Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher,

American Robin, Wood Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing (recorded at two different stops in northern part of county, one on 18 June 1977 and two on 2 June 1978; also four birds near West Elkin on 31 May 1978), Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Pine Warbler, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole (singing males in central Wilkes County, one on 18 June 1977 and another on 2 June 1978), Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow.—RAMONA SNAVELY, 115 Plymouth Avenue, Winston-Salem, N.C.

#### SURRY COUNTY, N.C.

The following list of birds that nest in Surry County, N.C., is based on 8 years of Breeding Bird Survey data plus additional sightings including many from Pilot Mountain State Park. The BBS route begins southeast of Copeland and runs westward near the southern boundary of the county, which is formed by the Yadkin River. The route enters Wilkes County just west of Elkin Valley.

Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Bobwhite, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo (single bird seen and heard calling 31 May 1970 at Stop 4; single birds 6 June 1971 at Stops 4, 5, and 21; one bird at Stop 4 on 28 May 1972; one bird at Stop 7 on 1 June 1975), Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Raven (nests at Pilot Mountain), Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted

Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher,

American Robin, Wood Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing (two at Stop 6 and five at Stop 27 on 31 May 1970; two at Stop 27 on 6 June 1971; four at Stop 14, three at Stop 27, and four at Stop 39 on 28 May 1972; six at Stop 28 and five at Stop 37 on 1 June 1973), Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, House Sparrow,

Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole (one singing male at Stop 3 on 31 May 1970, at Stop 37 on 6 June 1971, and at Stop 37 on 1 June 1975), Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow.—RAMONA SNAVELY, 115 Plymouth Avenue, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104

#### FORSYTH COUNTY, N.C.

Documented nesting records are available from Forsyth County, N.C., for all the species appearing in the list below. Three additional species are often present here during the breeding season, but no positive evidence of nesting has yet been found. These three are the American Kestrel, the Black-billed Cuckoo, and the Willow Flycatcher.

Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Bobwhite, Killdeer, American Woodcock, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Ringed Turtle Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, House Wren, Bewick's Wren (Chat 14:67), Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher,

American Robin, Wood Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing (first record, two adults feeding four fledglings at Salem Lake 14 July 1971; second record, two adults feeding two nestlings at Salem Lake 8 July 1977; adults fairly common during summers of 1975 through 1977), Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow,

Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole (first record, adults feeding young in nest 4 June 1972; second record, adults feeding young in nest 11 April 1974; nests found 5 June 1975 and 19 May 1976), Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, House Finch (see below), American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

*House Finch.* A pair was seen in courtship display on 19 June 1974 and for about the next 10 days. A pair was present on 21 and 23 June 1975. In the summer of 1976, a pair remained near a bird feeder, and on 12 July the adult male and one fledgling came to the feeder. The next day the male and two fledglings were seen. On 11 July 1977 two adults were feeding three young at the same location, and House Finches were at feeders all summer.

On 20 May 1978 male House Finches were seen and heard singing. A thorough investigation revealed a nesting colony in Salem Cemetery. At least four pairs were present in addition to 12 singing males. Courtship, copulation, nest building, feeding of young, and

cowbird parasitism were noted. Four additional pairs were located in other sections of town during June of 1978, and all pairs had young with them.—RAMONA SNAVELY, 115 Plymouth Avenue, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104

[The following species were accidentally omitted from the list of birds known to have bred in Forsyth County: Green Heron and Dickcissel (Chat 19:68-69).—EFP]

#### FORT BRAGG MILITARY RESERVATION, N.C.

I was stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., between 20 June and 28 July 1971. During this period I was in the field most of the time. Except for 5 days when I was absent, I kept daily lists of the numbers of each species of bird that I saw or heard; usually these lists were prepared from memory when I could find a few moments to write. This paper is a summary of those 34 daily bird lists.

The data for each species are presented in the form of a fraction. The numerator of the fraction is the number of days on which that particular species was recorded; the denominator is the total number of birds of that species recorded during the summer. For example, I recorded Brown-headed Nuthatches on 18 different days and a total of 110 during the summer (18/110), or an average of about six birds every other day. For a few unusual species or those recorded only once, I have given complete data on the number of individuals and the dates on which they were seen.

The data actually provide information on the relative conspicuousness of the birds, rather than on their abundance. Using the nuthatch as an example again, these birds were the second most frequently encountered species. These noisy birds often came around our bivouac sites at dawn where they were quite conspicuous. Actually they were probably less common than some other species that were more retiring or quieter.

This is obviously not a complete list of the summer birds of the Fort Bragg area. My stay was rather brief, and many birds had stopped singing by the time I arrived. Furthermore, conditions during military exercises were often less than optimum for observing birds. I rarely carried binoculars. Also, there was little variation in the habitat that I visited—mostly dry pine woods, but occasionally mixed woods, or more rarely deciduous woods. A few times I visited small lakes. I was surprised not to find any raptors. Even though I was afield often during all hours of the night, no owls were heard. Equally surprising was the absence of Carolina Chickadees and Carolina Wrens. All of the birds were probably breeding, except the Little Blue Herons, Spotted Sandpipers, and Black Terns. The following 50 species were recorded:

Green Heron:4/12. Little Blue Heron:4 on 27 July. Bobwhite:14/36. Killdeer:4/13. American Woodcock:1 on 25 June. Spotted Sandpiper:2 on 25 July, and 1 on 28 July. Black Tern:4 on 27 July. Mourning Dove:18/94. Yellow-billed Cuckoo:1 on 28 July. Chuck-will's-widow:12/37. Whip-poor-will:6/12. Common Nighthawk:15/68. Chimney Swift:6/31. Belted Kingfisher:2/4. Common Flicker:4/10. Red-headed Woodpecker:11/4. Downy Woodpecker: 2 on 23 June. Red-cockaded Woodpecker:3 on 25 June, 1 on 28 June near a nest hole in a live pine, 3 on 23 July.

Eastern Kingbird:21/68. Great Crested Flycatcher:9/17. Acadian Flycatcher:3/16. Rough-winged Swallow:1 on 21 June. Purple Martin:7/19. Blue Jay:9/30. Common Crow:12/66. Tufted Titmouse:1 on 23 June. Brown-headed Nuthatch:18/110. Mockingbird:15/63. Gray Catbird:4/7. Brown Thrasher:3/5. American Robin:8/22. Wood Thrush:10/21. Eastern Bluebird:3/7. Loggerhead Shrike:5/10. Starling:3/8.

White-eyed Vireo:2 on 19 July. Red-eyed Vireo:3/4. Pine Warbler:5/8. Common Yellowthroat:6/7. House Sparrow:13/36. Eastern Meadowlark:3/5. Red-winged Blackbird:5/11. Common Grackle:7/141. Summer Tanager:5/7. Cardinal:5/14 (28 July, nest with three 2-day-old young). Blue Grosbeak: 3/4. Indigo Bunting:1 on 23 July. Rufous-sided Towhee:11/32. Chipping Sparrow:3/3. Field Sparrow:5/8.—MORRIS D. WILLIAMS, Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La. 70803

## JOHNSTON COUNTY, N.C.

The following species have been recorded in Johnston County, N.C., during June or under circumstances that indicate local breeding. Unless otherwise stated, the birds were seen or heard calling during Breeding Bird Surveys made from 1966 through 1975 or in 1977.

Green Heron, American Kestrel, Bobwhite, King Rail (adult with chick, Jack Potter, pers. com.), Killdeer, American Woodcock, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker (permanent resident along Little River), Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher (25 June 1975), Eastern Wood Pewee, Barn Swallow (Chat 30:19 plus sightings along I-95 at Smithfield in June of 1977 and 1978), Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Fish Crow (14 June 1977), Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher,

American Robin, Wood Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (numerous breeding season sightings along Little River), Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo (25 June 1975), Red-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler (25 June 1975), Northern Parula (numerous breeding season sightings along Little River), Yellow Warbler (single singing male 1966 BBS), Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush (25 June 1975), Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler (adults feeding young out of nest, 25 June 1975), American Redstart (25 June 1975), House Sparrow,

Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Common Grackle, Scarlet Tanager (two singing males in an open grove of trees, 25 June 1975), Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak (feeding young, 25 June 1975), Indigo Bunting, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow.—ELOISE F. POTTER, Route 3, Box 114 AA, Zebulon, N.C. 27597

## WASHINGTON COUNTY, N.C.

The following species were found at Pettigrew State Park or along the road to Creswell. Dates of the visits were 21 June 1977 and 15 June 1978. Turkey Vulture, Bobwhite, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barn Owl (one found dead in road 21 June 1977), Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee (mating on the wing, 21 June 1977), Rough-winged Swallow (one sitting on wire 15 June 1978), Blue Jay, Common Crow, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Starling, Red-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Common Grackle, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee.—ELOISE F. POTTER, Route 3, Box 114 AA, Zebulon, N.C. 27597