

sistent with the description in Roberts' *Birds of Minnesota* of the first-winter male plumage.

There are only four published records of the Harlequin Duck in South Carolina. This species was first noted in the state by Arthur T. Wayne (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1970, p. 139; *Auk* 35:437) who observed a total of six birds (all females or immature males) at Porcher's Bluff near Mt. Pleasant on 14 and 16 January 1917. *South Carolina Bird Life* also mentions two males and a female sighted in the Cape Romain Refuge on 1 February 1936. More recently, a male and a female were seen near McClellanville on 21 December 1975 (Chat 40:2), and four birds (sexes not given) were discovered at Lake Hartwell near Madison on 8 March 1977 (Chat 41:98).

[NOTE: On 27 December 1976 Paul Gurn and several members of the Mattatuck Community College (Connecticut) Natural History Club observed an immature male Harlequin Duck at the northeastern end of Bull's Island. This previously unpublished record may represent the same bird reported above.—JRH]

A Record of the Hudsonian Godwit in South Carolina and a Comparison with the Black-tailed Godwit

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22 February 1978

In the afternoon of 4 September 1977, my wife Lisa and I were birding along the north beach of Huntington Beach State Park, Georgetown County, South Carolina. We had been seeing the expected species of shorebirds when one of us spotted a pair of larger birds about 100 yards away. We studied them for the next 10 minutes through our 80X telescope.

The birds resembled Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*) in general morphology: long legs, upright posture, and a long, two-toned recurved bill. However, the bills were shorter in proportion to the body than in the Marbled Godwit, and were decidedly curved throughout their length. The plumage of the breast, belly, and flanks was pure white on both birds, except that one bird had three small, faded, reddish patches on its breast and belly. No "marbling" effect was visible. Also, these birds were slimmer and perhaps a bit smaller than Marbled Godwits. We immediately suspected they were Hudsonian Godwits (*L. haemastica*), a species we are familiar with in New York.

We approached in order to flush the birds, and observed the black and white tail pattern. Unfortunately, we did not observe the black axillars because of the angle the birds presented as they flew away. Also, the light was merely adequate because of a heavy overcast. However, we did note a thin, indistinct wing stripe on both birds. They flew north across Murrell's Inlet and did not return.

There are but three published records of the Hudsonian Godwit in South Carolina. A single bird, observed carefully by E. von S. Dingle near Charleston in early May of 1941, was regarded by Sprunt and Chamberlain (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1970, p. 251) as the first definite record for the state. In the Supplement to the latter source (op. cit., p. 640-641), Burton places the species on the hypothetical list and gives a second record, an amazing 49 birds observed by the Tedards at Hunting Island, Beaufort County, on 1 September 1961 (Chat 26:41). This flock was associated with a large concentration of shorebirds, including several Marbled Godwits. The third record is represented by a single individual seen by Perry Nugent at Moore's Landing, Charleston County, on 25 February 1973 (Chat 37:53); no details are provided. In Georgia, there are records of this species from Little St. Simons Island (*Oriole* 33:18) and Sapelo Island (*American Birds* 27:602; *Oriole* 38:1-5). In recent years a few have been seen each fall on the Outer Banks of North Carolina (Chat 40:49; 41:54).

Because we did not see the black axillars, the possibility that the birds were Black-tailed Godwits (*L. limosa*) must be considered. This species breeds in the Palearctic and

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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15 July 1978

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