



Roundtable

... with Louis C. Fink

Free Bluebird Houses

Write to Bluebird House, Exxon Company, U.S.A., P.O. Box 2180, Houston, Texas 77001. If you are one of the first 15,000, they'll send you free a bluebird house made of fiberboard and coated with paraffin wax.

Exxon's magazine always carries a nature article or two. The most recent has a beautiful spread on Big Thicket, our first "National Preserve." It embraces over 84,000 acres.

Late-nesting Bluebirds

Josh (Purple Martin) Lee recently inquired about late-nesting Eastern Bluebirds in the Carolinas. The latest I have ever seen young leave the nest is 16 August (Chat 32:28-29). Matt L. Thompson and John K. Terres saw young leave boxes at Chapel Hill on 16 and 21 August, respectively (Terres, Chat 27:80). Bob Ruiz (Chat 34:28) reported seeing a male bluebird carrying nesting material into a box while a female perched nearby on 26 and 28 October 1969. Bob doesn't indicate that eggs were laid, and I suspect this was just another example of autumn recrudescence of courtship activities. Mid-August probably is a late, but not uncommonly late, time for young of the third broods to leave the nest, and I am not aware of any clutches laid after that date. Perhaps the real question is "How often do Eastern Bluebirds successfully rear three broods in a single season?"—EFP

Thomas D. Burleigh (Georgia Birds, 1958) wrote, "In Georgia, two, and possibly three, broods are reared each year, as fresh eggs can be found from the middle of March until the middle of July."—LCF

Beached Bird Survey

In November 1978 Malcolm M. Simons Jr. and his cooperators celebrated the fourth anniversary of the beginning of the Atlantic and Gulf Coast Beached Bird Survey Project. Valuable data on coastal bird mortality, particularly the incidence of oiling, have been obtained as a result of the survey. Director Simons is trying to enlist additional participants. Each observer is expected to cover at least 2 miles of beach weekly or biweekly and to record specified data on sheets that are turned in quarterly. Further information can be obtained by writing Malcolm M. Simons Jr., 1701 E. Harbor View Road, Box 52, Charlotte Harbor, Florida 33950.

The 300 Club

Entries are coming in for the 300 Club, which has three classes of membership: observing 300 species in North Carolina, South Carolina, or the two States together. Harry LeGrand has a list of 325 for the Old North State, and says it would have been higher if a hurricane had not wiped out a pelagic trip. Harry's South Carolina list is 292. His combined total for the Carolinas is 333. He wants to see a Black Rail and a Black-capped Petrel. (The petrel keeps eluding Harry.)

Eloise Potter reports a North Carolina list of 317, South Carolina 146, and the combination 318 species. Eloise wants an Olive-sided Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo (because friends don't believe she's seen a Bell's Vireo and not a Philadelphia), and a Black-billed Cuckoo.

Schedule of Some Birds

In the previous issue, we listed a few of the small land birds that spend the winter with us. You were urged to report any dates you could extend from personal observation and to keep your records in a copy of "Checklist of North Carolina Birds," available for a dollar from CBC Headquarters, P.O. Box 1220, Tryon, N.C. 28782. Now we offer another set of dates, for birds that breed in North Carolina but do not normally winter here. Check these dates with your own observations.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Earliest arrival</i>	<i>Latest departure</i>
Eastern Kingbird	10 March	31 December
Great Crested Flycatcher	7 April	30 December
Acadian Flycatcher	4 April	5 October
Traill's Complex (Willow and Alder)	27 April	29 September
Willow Flycatcher	8 May	19 August
Alder Flycatcher	10 May	—
Least Flycatcher	23 April	9 October
Eastern Wood Peewee	22 March	29 December
Olive-sided Flycatcher	19 April	26 October
Rough-winged Swallow	9 March	6 September
Barn Swallow	19 March	2 January
Cliff Swallow	6 April	27 November
Purple Martin	11 February	23 August
Wood Thrush	24 March	20 January
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	15 March	22 January
Red-eyed Vireo	23 March	4 November
Black-and-white Warbler	3 March	2 January
Prothonotary Warbler	23 March	3 January
Swainson's Warbler	13 April	19 October
Worm-eating Warbler	23 March	4 January
Golden-winged Warbler (mountains only)	9 April	7 October
Northern Parula	11 March	ca. 10 January
Yellow Warbler	4 April	29 December
Black-throated Green Warbler	22 March	29 December
Cerulean Warbler	19 April	14 November
Yellow-throated Warbler	9 March	20 January
Chestnut-sided Warbler (mountains only)	4 April	18 October
Prairie Warbler	20 March	10 January
Ovenbird	29 March	2 January
Louisiana Waterthrush	12 March	2 October
Kentucky Warbler	5 April	3 November
Hooded Warbler	28 March	28 December
American Redstart	7 April	1 January
Orchard Oriole	13 April	2 January
Summer Tanager	14 April	9 October
Grasshopper Sparrow	1 March	21 January

Speaking of Late Arrivals

The semi-domesticated Black Ducks in City Lake in Rocky Mount puzzle me. Ten young ducks were in the water on 15 August; by 15 September only four could be found. On 15 October two more young birds appeared. And on 5 November two more tiny fledglings were paddling about with their mother.

Eno River State Park near Durham

In mid-November, I joined 25 others for a walk through the park, led by a lovely lady ranger. The park office is at the north end of Cole Mill Road off US 70. An easy access to

(Continued on page 25)

from their personal knowledge of the various places that offer excellent opportunities for bird finding in that state.

Geffen's guide offers few details about the birds that can be expected at the various top birding spots, but it lists many addresses one can write for current information. A number of interesting places, such as Connemara, former home of poet Carl Sandburg, are mentioned even though they are not particularly famous for bird study. There is surprisingly little duplication of material in the Pettingill and Geffen books. If I were planning to do a lot of traveling with bird study as my primary objective, I would want to consult both books. Pettingill has written a bird-finding guide to the western United States, and I assume Geffen will provide a similar book if her eastern one is well received.

Any book that calls itself "complete" immediately arouses the skeptic in me, and Scofield's publication is no exception. This book purports to tell us all about bird watching: history, equipment, accessories, publications, clubs and organizations, bird sites, and tours and expeditions. While it does mention all these aspects of bird watching, the treatment is often less than complete. For example, the section on zoos and natural history museums does not mention North Carolina's zoological park at Asheboro or the State Museum of Natural History in Raleigh. The section on bird clubs lists CBC under the North Carolina heading but omits local Audubon or bird club chapters. Under the South Carolina heading, there is no mention of CBC or Charleston Natural History Society, but the Columbia and Hilton Head Audubon chapters are listed. Books and periodicals are presented without much guidance as to their relative merits; however, the reader is referred to an article in the October 1976 issue of *American Birds* on "Choosing a Basic Ornithological Library."

Fortunately the sections on equipment (binoculars, telescopes, tripods, cameras, telephoto lenses, and tape recorders and accessories) are fairly comprehensive. Introductory articles give good advice on the selection, use, and care of each type of equipment. The binocular buying guide is one of the best articles in the book. It includes an explanation of the construction of the various types of binoculars, a discussion of the problems of using a binocular if you must wear eyeglasses, and a practical method for testing the quality of a binocular before buying it (or checking the condition of one you already own). A couple of tips on using binoculars in the field would be a welcome addition to this important article. (First spot the bird, and then raise the glass without taking your eyes off the bird; if you miss, lower the glass and try again. Steady the glass by bracing upper arms against the chest.)

Prices are not given for the books, periodicals, and equipment. The publisher states that a current price list is available upon request to anyone who sends his name, address, and two first-class postage stamps. An appendix also gives names and addresses of equipment manufacturers.

Although Scofield's outfitting and source book is far from complete, it does give the bird watcher a good idea of the products and services that are available to aid him in the enjoyment of his hobby. One useful tip may be worth far more than the modest price of the book.—EFP

CBC Roundtable

(Continued from page 18)

hiking trails and the Eno River is clearly marked on the west side of Cole Mill Road. Our 2-mile walk started at Spranger Road and Howe Road; we hiked to an abandoned quarry, the foundation of a 200-year-old mill (complete with raceway), and the cemetery of the Cade family. Cade *pere* sired nine daughters, all of whom married millers!

After the dry spell, the river was extremely low. Because it fluctuates so violently, beavers do not build dams here; they dig holes in the banks instead. Eno River State Park is worth a visit.—LCF