



Roundtable

... with Louis C. Fink

Bird Finding on Goose Creek

Goose Creek State Park is in Beaufort County on the Pamlico River and consists of 1300 acres: sandy soil with a cover of oaks and pines, all festooned with Spanish moss. Picnic tables and fresh water are provided, but little other development has taken place. The park is about 10 miles E of Washington on US 264; turn right on SR 1334 and go 2 miles to the park entrance.

I made a short visit on 16 January. Common Flickers were busy, and Carolina Chickadees were calling. Outside the park, Turkey Vultures soared, and Eastern Bluebirds, Loggerhead Shrikes, and American Kestrels were numerous on telephone wires. On the river, framed by moss, were 50 American Coots and a dozen Ring-billed Gulls. I did not have time to hike the 2.6-mile nature trail, which looked more than inviting.

To locate Goose Creek and other State Parks, write the Public Affairs Office, Department of Transportation, Box 25201, Raleigh, N.C. 27611, and ask for the Transportation Map. It's free.—LCF

Odd Behavior of a Rock Dove

A Rock Dove was seen sitting on Forest Lake in Fayetteville, N.C., in the manner of a duck, during the late morning of 30 August 1978. The weather was fair. The bird was sitting upright in the water in an alert position, and it did not appear injured. After several minutes, the bird used a strong down stroke of its wings into the water. This cleared the body of the bird from the water, and it flew away.—PHILIP J. CRUTCHFIELD, 901 Montclair Road, Fayetteville, N.C. 28304.

Breaking up a Blackbird Roost

I have observed winter blackbird roosts in New Jersey, Georgia, and North Carolina (at a dozen locations) and read about efforts to disperse them. Until now, I have seen only one roost dispersed; that included about 25,000 birds in a bamboo patch at the East Lake Country Club in Atlanta. The birds disappeared overnight, and the groundskeeper claimed his secret was 100 pounds of mothballs placed on the ground under the bamboo on a hot and sunny day. I have no proof that the fumes drove the blackbirds away, but they did disappear suddenly.

Other efforts I have seen, such as lights at night, have failed.

The roost two blocks from my home in Rocky Mount grew to include an estimated 200,000 birds (or more) and was an undoubted nuisance to people living close to the roost. Several residents discharged guns at sundown with no effect.

On 8, 9, 10, and 11 January 1979, the City of Rocky Mount sent workers to discharge aerial bombs—bright flares and loud explosions—for about an hour each evening. For the first three nights, the birds flew up from their trees, wheeled about, and promptly settled down at dark. The fourth night of noise and light proved too much, and the birds left. Not a single bird has returned to the roost.

The birds are still in the area, their numbers undiminished. I see them by the tens of thousands every morning and night. I judge the new roost to be within a mile or so, but I cannot locate it.—LCF

Can You Top This?

Listed below are most of the species of small land birds that migrate regularly through North Carolina. Following each bird are the earliest and latest dates presently known for its migration in spring and in fall. An asterisk, (*) following the bird's name means that the species breeds in the mountains and therefore the migration dates apply only for the piedmont and coastal plain.

Western Kingbird	24 March-12 June	15 August-30 December
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	26 April-29 May	11 August-9 October
Bank Swallow (rare nester)	27 March-28 May	6 July-2 October
Swainson's Thrush	15 March-30 May	3 September-10 February
Gray-cheeked Thrush	9 March-30 May	11 September-28 December
Veery*	17 April-15 May	25 August-26 September
Philadelphia Vireo	22 April-16 May	15 August-13 October
Warbling Vireo*	22 March-25 May	8 July-19 October
Golden-winged Warbler*	24 April-6 May	15 August-2 October
Blue-winged Warbler*	14 April-5 May	16 August-24 September
Tennessee Warbler	7 April-13 May	27 August-29 October
Nashville Warbler	25 March-12 May	9 September-27 November
Magnolia Warbler	25 April-30 May	29 July-17 October
Black-th. Blue Warbler*	7 April-31 May	4 September-31 December
Blackburnian Warbler*	19 April-30 May	12 August-26 October
Chestnut-sided Warbler*	19 April-30 May	17 August-20 October
Bay-breasted Warbler	23 April-17 May	8 September-29 November
Blackpoll Warbler	16 April-3 June	28 August-1 December
Northern Waterthrush	27 March-30 May	17 July-12 October
Connecticut Warbler	26 April-30 May	18 August-31 December
Mourning Warbler	30 April-26 May	31 July-9 October
Wilson's Warbler	20 April-27 May	1 September-2 November
Canada Warbler*	20 April-1 June	22 August-12 October
Clay-colored Sparrow	1 May-9 May	19 September-14 November

SIALIA, a New Journal Strictly for the Bluebirds

The North American Bluebird Society was formed in March of 1978 to promote the welfare of the Eastern Bluebird, Western Bluebird, and Mountain Bluebird. Among the charter members are Rena Bishop, Mrs. W. Roy Bean, Jack Finch, Bonnie L. Green, Beth Ann Little, Robert A. Mayer II, Betty H. McIlwain, Mrs. Clinton McKay, Clay E. Murray, Margery Plymire, Robert C. Ruiz, and H. Edmund Stiles of North Carolina and Bowater Carolina Corporation, John J. Brewington, Joseph S. Byrd, Ralph B. Fulmer, William M. Gignilliat, Patricia A. Gowaty, Suzanne S. Miller, Darrell J. Spires, George E. Stone, and Nelson W. Taylor of South Carolina.

In the winter quarter of 1979 the Society published the first issue of its journal, *Sialia*, which is edited by Jon Boone, 9505 Good Lion Road, Columbia, Maryland 21045. One article offers an analysis of bluebird abundance and population trends while another examines reclaimed surface mines as potential nesting sites for bluebirds.

A regular membership in the North American Bluebird Society is \$10 per year. Students (under 21) and seniors (over 60) pay \$7.50. Group membership rates are available upon request. The Society's address is Box 6295, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906.

An Albinistic Red-tailed Hawk near Greenwood, S.C.

An albinistic Red-tailed Hawk has been residing near Greenwood, S.C., for at least 3 years. It appears to be mated with a Red-tailed Hawk having normal coloration. The white buteo was brought to my attention by Billy Ray Coff of Greenwood, and I saw it at fairly close range on 14 March 1979. Although not a pure albino, the bird is almost completely white except for some dark tips on the primaries. Apparently white plumage

has not deterred this bird from leading a normal existence. Several residents from Greenwood have kept an eye on this unusual hawk to protect it from misguided hunters. So far, efforts to obtain close-up photographs of the bird have been unsuccessful.—JOHN EMMETT CELY, Coordinator, Non-game & Endangered Species Section, South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Department, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, S.C. 29202.

First Issue of BRIMLEYANA Now Available

The first issue of *Brimleyana*, the scientific journal of the North Carolina State Museum, was published in March 1979. Edited by John E. Cooper, it contains 14 papers on the zoology and ecology of the southeastern United States.

Brimleyana is named in honor of the late H.H. and C.S. Brimley, who collaborated with T. Gilbert Pearson in the writing of *Birds of North Carolina*. H.H. Brimley was the first director of the N.C. State Museum, and C.S. Brimley was an entomologist with the N.C. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Cooper contributed a brief biography, "The Brothers Brimley: North Carolina Naturalists," as the opening paper of the new journal. Another paper of particular interest to CBC members is Daniel McKinley's "Historical Review of the Carolina Parakeet in the Carolinas."

Annual subscriptions are available for \$7.50 from the N.C. State Museum, P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, N.C. 27611. Single copies may be ordered or purchased at the museum book shop for \$4.50. *Brimleyana* is expected to appear semiannually, and each issue probably will contain about 150 pages.

North Carolina Natural History Society

Joe Grenier has been elected president of the North Carolina Natural History Society, which was formed recently in association with the North Carolina State Museum. This organization offers members an opportunity to explore their natural heritage through special courses, workshops, and excursions. Other benefits include an annual subscription to the quarterly newsletter *Whalebones* and a discount of 15% at the museum's book and gift shop. Charter memberships will be open until 30 June 1980. Memberships are \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a family with other classes (\$100 up) for those who wish to offer greater financial support. The Society is a non-profit organization, and all memberships are tax deductible. Make checks payable to the Society and mail to Treasurer, North Carolina Natural History Society, P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

The North Carolina Natural History Society will support Representative Wilma Woodard (R-Wake) in her efforts to obtain for the State Museum and the Hampton Museum the kind of financial support they deserve. On 29 March 1979 she filed House Bill 953, which was the first bill ever introduced to increase the operational budgets of these two natural history museums. Expressing appreciation for Representative Woodard's action, John B. Funderburg, director of the State Museum, said, "The stronger we make Wilma's position in the General Assembly, the more effective she can be in helping us achieve our goals."