

wings showed the classic field-guide pattern: the white band separating the black wing tips from the gray mantle color. From below, this white area looked like a translucent window, similar to that of the Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*).

These observations were made through an 80X Questar telescope. Because of the relatively small distance between me and the gull, the air turbulence caused by the warm weather was not a problem. Attempts to relocate the bird the next day failed.

The bird was clearly a Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). There are two other records of this highly insectivorous prairie species from South Carolina: a bird observed by Harry LeGrand near Townville, Anderson County, on 8 May 1975 (Chat 39:92), and a bird discovered by the author and Lisa Lewis at Huntington Beach State Park, Georgetown County, on 26 September 1976 (Chat 41:96).

Diet of the Barn Owl on a South Carolina Barrier Island

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The examination of cast pellets has provided valuable dietary information for owls as well as data on the distribution and abundance of small mammals in coastal South Carolina (Nelson 1934, 1973). One of the most reliable species for pellet analysis is the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). Formerly common in the coastal area, this species is now thought to be declining (Gauthreaux, in press) and is regarded as uncommon in the Cape Romain area (U.S. Department of Interior 1976).

Analysis of 60 Barn Owl pellets collected on Lighthouse Island in the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge on 16 June 1978 reveals a primary reliance on the Meadow Vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) and the Rice Rat (*Oryzomys palustris*). Dietary components included remains of the following: 34 Meadow Voles, 8 Rice Rats, 2 Roof Rats (*Rattus rattus alexandrinus*), 1 Norway Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), 1 Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), 1 marsh wren (*Cistothorus* sp.), 7 Fiddler Crabs (*Uca* sp.), 1 Paper Wasp (*Polistes* sp.), and 1 Marsh Periwinkle (*Littorina irrorata*).

Meadow Voles included in these samples are representatives of the only known coastal population in South Carolina (Golley 1966, Sanders 1978). It is of interest that this disjunct population was discovered on Lighthouse Island in 1933 (E.B. Chamberlain, unpublished, Charleston Museum files), and after a lapse of 45 years, both the Barn Owl and its unusual prey are still represented.

The writer acknowledges the assistance of E. Burnham Chamberlain in verifying identifications of specimens and of Buddy Bennett in aiding collection.

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[NOTE: French and Wharton (Oriole 40: 6-10) examined over 2000 mammal remains from Barn Owl pellets collected in Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. Cotton Rats were the chief dietary item at all localities, including the single South Carolina one in the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. Tedards (Chat 27:1-3) also found the Cotton Rat predominant in Barn Owl pellets collected in the vicinity of Anderson, S.C.—JRH]

May and June Observations of the Whip-poor-will in the South Carolina Coastal Plain

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Whip-poor-wills (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) and Chuck-will's-widows (*C. carolinensis*) are common South Carolina goatsuckers. Whip-poor-wills are winter residents in coastal South Carolina, migrating north in April (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1970). Individuals of the species breed in the northwestern third of the state (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1970). Chuck-will's-widows migrate into the low country about the same time that Whip-poor-wills move northward. Sprunt and Chamberlain (1970) note that the two species occur together in the foothills of the mountains in the breeding season. Knighton (1972) reported that the Whip-poor-will occurs down the Savannah River valley in summer as far as the fall line. Smith (1978) found a juvenile with an adult in Lynchburg, Lee County, S.C., in August 1977.

We made the reported observations (Table 1) as part of field work on the Beidler Forest in Four Hole Swamp, Dorchester County, S.C., and in and near the Beidler Tract in the Congaree Swamp, Richland County, S.C. Each report consists of our having heard one or more individuals calling. Habitat in the Congaree Swamp was young pine and mixed pine-hardwood forest adjacent to agricultural fields on the bluffs north of the swamp. Habitat in the Beidler Forest was 15-year-old Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*) and mixed hardwood forest on a sand ridge bordering Four Hole Swamp. To the best of our knowledge these are the first records of *C. vociferus* in these counties during the probable breeding season. The observations in Dorchester County extend the possible breeding range of the Whip-poor-will far down the South Carolina coastal plain to within approximately 80 km of the coast. Fussell and Guida (1975) have made a similar observation in coastal North Carolina.

This work was supported in part by a grant to Hamel from the U.S. Forest Service. We appreciate the assistance of Marion Burnside, who provided access to the Beidler Tract of the

Table 1. Records of goatsuckers calling in South Carolina coastal plain, spring 1977-1978.

Place	Date	No. Chucks	No. Whips	Habitat ¹	Observers
Congaree Swamp	12 June 1977	Present	2	P	BEC
	30 April 1978 ²	33	10	P/H	BEC
	21 May 1978	1	3	P, P/H	PBH, SMW
	25 May 1978	Present	4	P	BEC
	4 June 1978	4	4	P, P/H	PBH, SMW, H. Winton
Beidler Forest	23 May 1978	2	1	P/H	PBH, SMW
	6-18 June 1978	Present	1	P/H	SMW

¹ P = pine forest; P/H = mixed pine-hardwood forest.

² Cassie had found Whip-poor-wills in similar localities 23 March and 2 April 1978.