

General Field Notes

JAMES F. PARNELL, Department Editor

Department of Biology, University of North Carolina at Wilmington,
Wilmington, N.C. 28401

JULIAN R. HARRISON, Associate Editor

Department of Biology, The College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C. 29401

Peregrine Falcons and Boats: An Example of Symbiosis?

JOHN B. ANDRE

Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge
Route 1, Box 191, Awendaw, S.C. 29429

25 September 1978

Symbiosis, which means living together, is used to describe pairs of organisms that live in harmony. Commensalism is a type of symbiosis in which one organism benefits from the presence of another while the latter is unaffected (E.R. Pianka, *Evolutionary Ecology*, Harper and Row, 1974). If the definition is altered to include an inanimate object, then this form of symbiosis has occurred at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, S.C.

Sprunt and Chamberlain (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1970) include a report by Cape Romain personnel stating that the Peregrine Falcon "sometimes deliberately follows a patrol boat in the waterways of the marshes, and when grebes or ducks are flushed ahead of the boat, the Duck Hawk swoops upon them with astonishing swiftness." This feeding tactic has been reported at Cape Romain recently.

On four occasions between 26 September 1976 and 14 March 1977, a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) followed a refuge boat through the marshes and attacked Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*). The attacks were made as the grebes taxied on the water. Only one attack was successful, but the falcon dropped or released the grebe after lifting it about 20 feet above the water. No attempt was made to recapture the grebe. It is not known whether these attacks were made by the same Peregrine or by different ones.

I thank the manager at Cape Romain NWR for allowing the use of an unpublished report on the Peregrine Falcon.

Killdeer with Young in Charleston, S.C.

EDWARD C. MORRISON

11 Church Street
Charleston, S.C. 29401

31 August 1978

On 14 July 1978, in a grassy lot off Lockwood Boulevard in Charleston, S.C., I saw a Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) that on 17 July proved to be one of a mated pair with two downy young. The 2 to 3 acre lot is less than 100 yards from the Ashley River and is bordered on one side by marsh and on the other by the heavily traveled boulevard.

At my approach, both adults immediately arose: one circling and flying about in its characteristic rapid and erratic flight pattern, the other running to a rock-covered, exposed area, feigning injury as nesting birds of this species often do. The two young scurried into the high grass and did not take flight. I did not see the young after 17 July, but at least one adult was present as late as 5 August.

Wayne (*Birds of South Carolina*, 1910, p. 59) says that the Killdeer is a winter resident in the low country of South Carolina from July to April, but does not breed, "preferring" the