

visited frequently by bird students. Also, much of the Prairie Falcon population in the western United States is migratory, and the fall season is the time of year when extralimital records of western strays in the East are most frequent.

[NOTE: There are two previous sightings of the Prairie Falcon in South Carolina; however, neither record is supported by details published in an appropriate journal. E. von Siebold Dingle observed one on two separate occasions in a wooded area near Middleburg Plantation, Berkeley County, in early May of 1973 (Lesser Squawk 25(7): 2, 1973). This individual seemed fairly tame, and on both occasions it dove unsuccessfully from its perch in a tree at passing birds; it may have been an escape. Another Prairie Falcon was observed by Perry Nugent at the U.S.D.A. Vegetable Breeding Laboratory near Charleston on 7 October 1976 (Lesser Squawk 27(10): 3, 1976; Am. Birds 31(2): 164). The Laboratory property includes extensive, open fields and some wooded areas. Nugent noted both the black axillars and the facial markings characteristic of this species. There are three records of the Prairie Falcon in Georgia (Am. Birds 30(3): 706 and 32(2): 204), and one in North Carolina (Chat 33(1): 26). The species should be placed on the South Carolina hypothetical list, pending publication of the details of previous sightings.—JRH]

Probable Sight Record of an Ivory Gull in North Carolina

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On the morning of 29 January 1980, I followed through binoculars a gull as it flew over me and above the jetty at Fort Macon, Carteret County, N.C. The bird, which I believe was an immature Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*), disappeared from view as it neared the end of the jetty, and I suspect that it continued its same flight line to sea. Its graceful, unlabored, straight-line flight pattern attracted my attention. It was about 30 m away when first noticed, then flew directly over my head at a height of about 10-12 m. It remained at this height down the length of the jetty. From the underside I could see that the bird was small (Laughing Gull/Kittiwake size class) but it looked heavy breasted. Unfortunately, in spite of the large number and variety of gulls in the area, no others that could be used as a size reference came into binocular view. The bird's bill was small, short, and slender; the bill and legs were dark. As the bird moved away I was able to see for the first time its dorsal surface. The trailing edges of tail features, primaries, and secondaries had distinct dark spots. Apparently each spot was bordered with white, for they appeared separate and did not suggest bands. The angle of view did not provide sight of the top of the head or back, but the dorsal area was certainly light and had few if any distinct markings.

I am somewhat reluctant to report this sighting because North Carolina is significantly south of the Ivory Gull's expected winter range, because I am unable to document all field marks, and because of the extreme variability in gull plumages. Nevertheless, based on the field marks observed, all other local gull possibilities can be ruled out. These marks match classic textbook markings of an immature Ivory Gull. The following day I called John Fussell to alert him to the possibility of an Ivory Gull in the area, but he was unable to locate the bird. It is probably important to note that despite the relatively mild winter, several other gulls unusual for North Carolina were also sighted in the Beaufort-Morehead City area—Black-legged Kittiwakes (4), Lesser Black-backed Gull (2-4), apparent Iceland Gulls (2-3), and Glaucous Gull (3). Unusu-

ally large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were in the sheltered waters of the harbor and sound.

Normally the occurrence of Ivory Gulls south of Canada is unusual. There are records for wintering Ivory Gulls in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York. The southernmost records known to me are for Atlantic City, New Jersey (30 January 1955, *Am. Birds* 9(3):244; 14 February 1966, *Am. Birds* 20(3):407). There is also one summer report for New Jersey (19 August 1955, *Am. Birds* 10(1):13). The only known nesting records for Ivory Gulls in North America are for Seymore Island, a small island north of Bathurst Island and southeastern Ellesmere Island, Baffin Bay area of Arctic Canada (Frisch and Morgan, *Canada Field-Naturalist* 93(2):173-174, 1979).

First North Carolina Record of a Band-tailed Pigeon

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About midafternoon on 10 June 1980 at the Fetterbush Overlook (mile marker 422) on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Haywood County, N.C., I observed a Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*). This represents the first record of this species for the state.

The bird was studied by four people, all of whom had previous experience with this bird in the western United States. They were, in addition to me, Jane Kittleman and Marjorie Hopkins of Dallas, Texas, and Martha Milburn of Hamison, Arkansas. Milburn arrived after we had studied and identified the bird. It was her first eastern bird-watching trip, and we were careful not to reveal our thoughts concerning the bird's identity. She quickly announced, "It's a Band-tailed Pigeon, but the book says only the Mourning Doves are here."

Originally I had stopped to look at what I assumed was a Broad-winged Hawk perched on a dead tree just below the east end of the overlook. Realizing that it was not a hawk, I wrote down the following description before checking the field guide:

Bill yellow, black-tipped, slightly hooked.

Gray all over, dark on back of neck, as head turned, a dark area with white band at top.

Eyes red.

Notched tail.

The bird then flew close to us and landed in a Mountain Elderberry (*Sambucus pubens*). It fed and moved about leisurely, showing no sign of alarm. Visible in flight was its rounded tail and a flash of white in the belly. We saw a broad area of a different shade on the terminal end of the tail, but this was not particularly noticeable. The feathers had a soft sheen, and the bird was plump and healthy looking. There was no band visible on its yellowish legs.

The "red eye" is in reality a red ring around the eye. A notched tail, evident when the bird was first seen facing us, disappeared when it flew. This notch is the only discrepancy from the descriptions I later read in the field guides, although the Western edition of the Audubon guide has a photograph of perched Band-tailed Pigeons showing a distinctive notch in the tail.

Although this is a Western species, there are several previous records of Band-tailed Pigeons in the eastern United States:

Alabama, October 1971, *Am. Birds* 26(1):76.

Louisiana, five records, *Am. Birds* 27(3):628.

Tennessee, Nashville, April 1974, *Migrant* 45:49-51.

Kentucky, November 1973, *Kentucky Warbler* 50:18-19.