

First South Carolina Specimen of the Black-legged Kittiwake

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In response to a call from the Law Enforcement Division of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department concerning oil-soaked birds, Knight investigated the beach at Folly Island, near Charleston, S.C., the morning of 19 January 1980. The only bird found appeared to be a kittiwake. It was emaciated and had oil on its breast, wings, and head. The weather at the time, through cold, was clear and sunny. Knight took the bird to the Sea Island Veterinary Hospital where Pfaff identified it tentatively as a Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). Pfaff treated the bird for shock and removed as much of the oil as possible. Nevertheless, the kittiwake died 2 hours later.

Albert E. Sanders of the Charleston Museum confirmed the identification of the Kittiwake (as *R. t. tridactyla*) and had it prepared as a study skin (ChM No. CB2349). The specimen, an adult female in fresh, early winter plumage, weighed 236.4 g. Measurements were total length 38 cm, tail 14 cm, wing 30 cm, tarsus 3.2 cm, bill 3.5 cm, and ovary 1.0 x 0.6 cm. The stomach contained grit, coquina shells (*Donax* sp.), and ingested oil.

The Folly Island specimen represents the first record of the Black-legged Kittiwake in South Carolina. Grant, Browne, and Parnell (1976, Chat 40:12-13) stated that there are no published records for South Carolina, but suggested that this species undoubtedly occurs offshore during winter. They summarized 17 sightings in North Carolina waters since 1940. More recently, Lee and Booth (1979, Am. Birds 33:719) reported additional records for North Carolina and gave the status of the kittiwake in that state as a common winter resident. Additional field work is required in order to establish its status in South Carolina coastal waters.

Range Expansion of Nesting Tree Swallows

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On 4 May 1981 at 1615 EDT I noticed a pair of Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) clinging to an empty bluebird nest box while a male Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) attempted to drive them away. The bluebird, which was nesting about 70 feet away at the time, seemed determined to keep the swallows from infringing on his territory. The male Tree Swallow would fly down to the nest box, the female would join him, and the male bluebird would try to run them away from the box. I watched this behavior for about 30 minutes. Although I at first assumed the swallows were just passing through in northward migration, subsequent visits to the site provided the first nesting record for Tree Swallows in Buncombe County, N.C., and the second for the state.

The swallow nesting site is 1.5 miles N of Asheville on NC 191. The box is 4 feet above ground and attached to a telephone pole in an open field about 50 feet from a dwelling. The elevation is 1980 feet. The French Broad River is nearby.

I visited the site almost daily from 4 through 29 May and less frequently until the day the young Tree Swallows fledged, 21 June. Although the adult swallows were at the