

General Field Notes

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Brown Pelican on Inland Freshwater Impoundment

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Although records of pelicans on inland waters after severe coastal storms are not too unusual, records of impromptu visits, and especially of prolonged stays, appear to be rare. Such is the case of a single adult Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) on Hope Mill Lake, which is located in the town of Hope Mills, Cumberland County, N.C.

This bird appeared at the lake late in July 1981 and continued to be seen there through September. Most of the day it perched in one of a number of cypress trees in a cove on the edge of the lake. High-powered motorboats that went by the perching area, frequently towing water-skiers, did not appear to disturb the animal significantly. It made fishing forays each day, sometimes among the fishermen and water-skiers. When fishermen encroached on the perching area, the animal simply left for another part of the lake.

I was first made aware of the presence of the pelican by Parley Rassmussen, a resident of Hope Mills, early in August. Later that month, I was approached by John Konen, who indicated that the pelican seemed encamped in an area across the lake from his home. My first observation of this animal was on 2 September, and the bird remained in the area through the last week of September. However, during the evening of 3 October there appeared an additional bird according to John Konen. These birds were last seen flying over the lake about sundown on 7 October.

There has been an impounded body of water supplying power for various textile mills in this area since the 1850s. The present dam was built in 1924 to impound water to supply electricity. Hope Lake Number 2, as it is called, is an acid warm-water impoundment, rather deep in comparison with most other bodies of water in the coastal plain. It includes approximately 150 acres of generally open water, and some 150 adjacent acres of swamps and tributary streams. The lake is some 80 to 90 miles inland from the southern coasts of North Carolina.

A Nanday Conure in Coastal North Carolina

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While covering our assigned area on the Bodie-Pea Island Christmas Bird Count in 1977, my wife Fran and I saw a parrot species unfamiliar to us. The bird was approximately 12 to 14 inches long with mandibles typical of a psitticiform. Its plumage was