

General Field Notes

DAVID S. LEE, Department Editor
North Carolina State Museum, P.O. Box 27647
Raleigh, N.C. 27611

JULIAN R. HARRISON, Associate Editor
Department of Biology, The College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C. 29401

Brown Pelican on Inland Freshwater Impoundment

PHILIP J. CRUTCHFIELD
901 Montclair Road
Fayetteville, N.C. 28304

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

E. WAYNE IRVIN
North Carolina State Museum of Natural History
P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, N.C. 27611

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

almost entirely dark green, appearing black when viewed at certain angles in the subdued ambient light. The face and remiges were noticeably darker than the rest of the body. Fran noted red plumage on the legs as the bird extended them in landing. The long pointed tail and wings were noted as the bird flew about and perched in a grove of mature Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*).

We first noticed the bird because of its raucous, screeching vocalizations, usually uttered during short flights. Clearly a strong flier, the solitary bird permitted us to approach no closer than 75 to 100 yards before taking wing. We watched the parrot for approximately 30 minutes with 10X binoculars during midday on 30 December 1977. The sky was overcast with intermittent light rain; the temperature was in the mid-40s. The site was the parking lot adjacent to the boat slips at the U.S. Coast Guard Station at the north end of Pea Island, Dare County, N.C.

The illustration in Forshaw and Cooper's *Parrots of the World* (1973) left little doubt that we had seen a Nanday Conure (*Nandayus nenday*). Further, the observed field marks matched well with a study-skin specimen in the scientific collection of the North Carolina Museum of Natural History (NCSM 5755).

Lisk and Crabtree (Am. Birds 28:11) document the occurrence of this conure, also known as the Black-hooded Parakeet, as a feral species in southern California and give strong circumstantial evidence of breeding there in the early 1970s. Several reports from the New York-New Jersey area indicate considerable nesting success of the Nanday Conure. A Brooklyn, N.Y., population grew from 8 in 1976 to 19 in 1978, including 2 immature birds (Am. Birds 35:2).

The North Carolina sighting documented here is unquestionably a bird of pet-trade origin, having been seen during the period when the species was breeding successfully in New York. Observers should be aware that temperate coastal areas appear to prolong survival of many non-native species introduced in the eastern United States by various means, both accidentally and deliberately.

Flying Squirrel Found Dead at Red-cockaded Woodpecker Cavity

J.H. CARTER III

P.O. Box 891

Southern Pines, N.C. 28387

14 January 1982

Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) are known for excavating nest and roost cavities in living pine trees and for maintaining resin wells around the cavities. Various researchers have speculated that resin flow functions as a deterrent to potential predators and cavity competitors. Southern Flying Squirrels (*Glaucomys volans*) are major users of Red-cockaded Woodpecker cavities (Dennis 1971, Carter 1974, Jackson 1978), and they are not necessarily deterred by fresh, sticky resin (Dennis 1971). On 18 May 1974, I discovered a dead flying squirrel in the entrance tunnel of a Red-cockaded Woodpecker cavity. The cavity was in a second-growth Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*) in an open, mature Longleaf Pine stand on the Fort Bragg Military Reservation, Hoke County, N.C. The cavity had been classed as active on 9 February 1974, with no plate, much fresh chipping, and much resin flow. It was 4.6 m high, and faced SSW. On 3 June 1974 the cavity showed additional fresh chipping by the Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

The squirrel was badly decomposed, and the entire ventral surface was mired in resin. The tail and hind legs protruded from the cavity entrance. When the squirrel was removed, some matted, shredded vegetative matter was found in the entrance tunnel where the head had been. Flying squirrels construct their nests from such material. The