

Station in southeastern Wisconsin as late as 30 May; in the 9 years the station was operated in the spring, we conducted observations for a total of only 9 days in June with the latest date on 8 June (Mueller, unpubl.). It is possible that a few birds may move northward in June.

The simultaneous sighting of two birds without any evidence of behaviors associated with breeding is also only tenuous evidence for breeding. The female remains in the immediate vicinity of the nest from just before egg-laying until the nestlings are about 3 weeks old, a total period of about 8 weeks. During this time the male provides all the food for his family and is seen in the vicinity of the nest only during the few minutes (maximum) elapsed during the delivery of prey to the female. This exchange involves considerable vocalizations. Incubating females may sit tight and go unnoticed when a nest is approached, but most will exhibit some form of defensive behavior, particularly after the young have hatched. Defensive behaviors range from flying about, vocalizing, to attacks on the human intruder. The young remain together for about 3 weeks after fledging and this is the most likely time to see more than one Sharp-shin in a small area. Young birds frequently perch in the same or adjacent trees, and interact frequently, stooping at each other and vocalizing. The approach of an adult results in a frenzy of vocalizing and young able to fly will meet the approaching adult and chase it until the food is dropped. The bird obtaining the food item is usually chased by one or more siblings who have failed to receive food, vocalizing as they fly about.

Anyone seeing two Sharp-shins together in summer should pause for an hour or two and attempt to observe interactions or other behaviors suggesting breeding. Every attempt should be made to determine the age and sex of the birds (see Mueller, Berger, and Allez, *American Birds* 33:236-240 and *Bird-Banding* 50:34-44).

### **Sighting of a Swainson's Hawk in North Carolina**

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On 21 March 1982, approximately 30 minutes before sunset, we saw an adult, light-phase Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), at Lake Benson. Lake Benson is near Garner, Wake County, N.C., and is approximately 8 miles S of Raleigh. The large Buteo was soaring along the line of trees that separates Lake Benson from the fields to the east. After remaining in sight for approximately 10 seconds and approaching us to within about 7.5 m, the bird turned eastward and disappeared behind the trees. We were unable to find the bird again that day or on subsequent days. At the time of the sightings the sun was low but unobscured and was over our right shoulders. We were facing southeast from the Lake Benson

Causeway, and the bird was about 100 degrees from the sun. Each of us used 7 x 35 binoculars.

Most noticeable field marks were white wing linings and body contrasting strongly with dark flight feathers, with dark head and breast region, and with dark tail. Some white was also present in the face, chin, and throat. Wings were long and slender-appearing for a Buteo, and when the bird was at a good angle, a weak dihedral was apparent in the wings. No banding was apparent in the tail from either above or below, although some faint banding was noticeable on the flight feathers. It is the experience of Tarbet that the banding of the tail is seldom easily seen in Swainson's Hawk, with the tail often presenting a general gray color as in the present case.

We are confident that the bird was a Swainson's Hawk because of wing, body, and head pattern; shape and size; and wing position while soaring. It also matched quite closely the numerous members of this species seen by Tarbet in the West. The bird is rare in North Carolina with only three previous reports (Chat 44:76 and 44:76-78).

Mike Tove, Harry LeGrand, Paul Sykes, and others mentioned the possibility that this bird was part of the small winter population in Florida, despite the fact that most of that population is immatures. We can offer no more likely explanation for the presence of the bird in the Raleigh area and conclude from the failure to locate the bird later that it was migrating.

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### **Screech Owl Nest in a Box on the Ground**

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On 13 May 1981, Clemmer found a Screech Owl (*Otus asio*) with two large downy young in a nest box (inside dimensions: 25 x 25 x 56 cm; entrance diameter: 10 cm) that was resting on the ground at the Savannah River Plant, Aiken County, S.C. The site was dominated by 40-year-old Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*), Bluejack Oak (*Quercus cinerea*), and Turkey Oak (*Quercus laevis*) with little ground cover other than pine straw. As a result of forest management activities and the young age of the stand, few trees were large enough to provide nesting cavities for this species, although an identical unoccupied nest box attached at 2 m on a pine was within 100 m of the box on the ground. The bottom of the box on the tree was covered by pine straw; the box on the ground had about 8 cm of wood shavings on the bottom. The birds were not disturbed on 13 May. When the box was checked by Jackson on 27 May, the birds were gone, though one infertile Screech Owl egg was found.

While Screech Owls are well known to accept nest boxes as substitutes for natural nesting cavities (Van Camp 1975, Bent 1938, Alland 1937), they usually