

rush (*Eleocharis equisetifoides*), Maiden Cane (*Panicum hemitomon*), and white Water-lily (*Nymphae odorata*) and with submerged Bog Moss (*Mayaca aubletii*) and Sphagnum Moss (*Sphagnum* sp.). The bird swam and dove, grebe-like, along the margins of the emergent vegetation. When approached, it would dive or swim into the emergent vegetation or stand of trees. On one occasion it emerged from a dive with only its head above water in an apparent attempt to escape detection. At no time was the Masked Duck observed to associate with nearby American Coots (*Fulica americana*), Ring-necked Ducks (*Aythya collaris*), Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*), or American Black Ducks (*Anas rubripes*).

The bird was last observed on 25 February. It was not located during an extensive search of the area on 7 March.

The normal range of the Masked Duck extends from the Gulf coast of Mexico and Central America and the West Indies south to northern Argentina. This species is considered rare and local even within its normal range. The preferred habitat consists of marshes and swamps where the water surface is extensively covered with emergent and floating vegetation. In the United States, the Masked Duck occurs irregularly in southern Texas with the first definite nesting occurring there in 1967. There are several records from southern Florida and single records from nine other scattered states (Alabama, Georgia, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Vermont, and Wisconsin). These records are summarized by Palmer (Handbook of North American Birds, Vol. 3, p. 523-525).

As with all extralimital sightings of waterfowl, one must contend with the possibility of escapes. Recent literature reveals that the Masked Duck has never been bred or maintained in captivity. This, coupled with previous extralimital records, indicates that the Masked Duck observed and photographed in Craven County, N.C., was most likely wild and not an escape.

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First Nesting of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in South Carolina

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On 6 July 1982, I found two adult Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (*Muscivora forficata*) at Youngs Community in upper Laurens County on the piedmont of South Carolina. One of them was on a nest when I arrived at 1100. The other bird was on a telephone line nearby.

The birds were first observed by Niles Osborne approximately 3½ weeks prior to my visit. They had begun to build the nest then. He reported the sighting to Mary Riddle, who identified the birds and notified me. The nest was built in a lone Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*), in a fork at the end of a drooping branch. It was 15 feet above the ground, constructed of plant stems, dried grass, and some thistledown. The nest was well hidden by the oak leaves around it. The nest tree was between two buildings, a community center and

a fire station. A mowed field was behind it and grown-up fields were in all directions. The birds foraged in these fields.

On 12 July at least one nestling was heard in the nest. One adult stayed on or near the nest while the other flew to the fields nearby. The adults were seen with grasshoppers in their beaks.

On 22 July the birds were not at the nest site. The male was on a telephone line 200 yards away. He flew to another line farther away, where the female was perched. From a pecan tree in the front yard of a house 50 feet away, a young bird was calling. The adults flew to another pecan tree, and the youngster followed. The parents would fly from the tree, collect food, and fly back to feed the young bird. Only one young bird was observed. The nest was collected and deposited in the collection of the South Carolina State Museum (#82.64.1).

This is one of the few records of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher nesting east of the Mississippi River (Jackson, Amer. Birds 29:912, 1975). To my knowledge, this is as far east as this species has ever been known to breed. Although a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported from Hilton Head Island, S.C., on 12 May 1973 (Chat 37:88), this is the first report of nesting from the Carolinas.

Low-elevation Record of Winter Wren During Breeding Season in Graham County, N.C.

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On 19 June 1982 at 1600 EST, while walking in the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest in Graham County, N.C., with Pat and David McConnell, I encountered a singing Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*). The location was about 500 m (1640 feet) beyond the memorial plaque that honors Joyce Kilmer on the right arc of the upper loop trail. We descended to the memorial plaque and there saw another (or the same) Winter Wren, which sang repeatedly. The next morning at 0700 EST, Jim McConnell and I returned to the memorial plaque and immediately heard a Winter Wren singing in the upper loop area about 50 m (160 feet) up the gentle slope from us. While we stayed in the area for about 30 minutes, the wren moved downhill into the lower loop area, ranging as far as 200 m (650 feet) below the memorial plaque. It sang repeatedly from various perches within the Rosebay (*Rhododendron maximum*) thickets, and we once observed it at a distance of about 6 m.

The elevation at the memorial plaque is about 770 m (2520 feet), and the wren ranged perhaps 12 to 13 m (40 feet) lower than that. A survey of the literature revealed no breeding-season records for the Winter Wren at such a low elevation in North Carolina. Stupka (Notes on the Birds of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 1963) states that in the Great Smoky Mountains Winter Wrens leave the lower slopes in April for the highest elevations (spruce-fir forest) where they nest with other Canadian-zone species such as Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*), and Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*). *Birds of the*