

Portsmouth Island godwit, and several color slide duplicates have been deposited in the North Carolina State Museum of Natural History.

The godwit was also seen on 23 September by Pam Stuart. Wayne and Fran Irvin found the bird on 2 October, 1.5 miles SW of the September sightings. On 10 October, at midday, the godwit was again adjacent to Ocracoke Inlet, and was seen by Bill and Pat Brokaw, Larry Crawford, John Fussell, Bob Holmes, and Heathy Walker. Later, that afternoon, Derb Carter and Lance Peacock found the bird in the same area. As far as I know, these were the only observations, although others searched for the bird in early October. I covered the flats thoroughly on 24 November, and did not see the godwit. Prior to the initial observation, I had censused the shorebirds on the flats on 6 and 8 September. If the bird did arrive at Portsmouth between 8 September and 22 September, it may be of interest that no extreme weather occurred during that period, although there were several days with moderate northeasterly winds.

The location of the sightings, the Portsmouth Flats, is a significant natural area within Cape Lookout National Seashore. These flats are vast (ca. 3 square miles), and consist of sections that are primarily sand flats and sections that are primarily mud flats. They provide a major feeding area for migrating shorebirds. Unfortunately, this rich shorebird area has been generally inaccessible to bird students. However, recently a transportation service (for tourists wanting to visit the historic Portsmouth village) from Ocracoke has been developed.

Observation of the Bar-tailed Godwit was made while I was conducting, for the Cape Lookout National Seashore, censuses of fall shorebirds using the Portsmouth Island flats. This work was supported by the Volunteer in Park Program. Appreciation is extended to Claudia Wilds for reviewing the manuscript.

Savannah Sparrows on Territory in Alleghany County, N.C.

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The Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) has been slowly expanding its breeding range southward in recent decades, and in the 1970s they had been recorded in summer in a number of localities in the Virginia mountains. By 1980, the species had been noted in Virginia south to Carroll County (Scott 1979), Washington County (Scott 1975), and Smyth County (Scott 1975); and in Hawkins County, Tennessee (Alsop 1977). Hawkins County is at the same latitude as the northern tier of counties in North Carolina, whereas the southern locations in Virginia are only 15 to 20 miles from the North Carolina border. Thus, the possibility existed that Savannah Sparrows occur in summer in the mountains of northern North Carolina. Nonetheless, the species was not detected on the Ashe County, N.C., Breeding Bird Foray in 1979 (LeGrand and Potter 1980), nor had it ever been detected in the breeding season in the Carolinas.

On 14 June 1983, I surveyed roadside habitats in the northeastern portion of Alleghany County, N.C., looking specifically for open country birds, as the county

contains an abundance of pastures and fields. I concentrated on listening for Savannah Sparrows, Henslow's Sparrows (*Ammodramus henslowii*), and Bobolinks (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). Though I suspect that Bobolinks nest somewhere in the county, because abundant habitat seems present, I found neither of the last two species. However, I did find singing Savannah Sparrows at three locations. The first was at the community of Hooker, 5.3 miles E of Sparta. The second was along SR 1426, 2.7 miles E of Sparta. The third location was 2.0 miles SE of downtown Sparta on SR 1121. The elevations at these sites range from 2750 to 2900 feet (900 to 935 m).

All three individuals were first noted by their songs, and two were subsequently seen, singing from either posts or wires of fences. The habitats were basically similar—ungrazed or lightly grazed pastures in a moderately hilly setting. These pastures contained only grasses, with no forbs or saplings of any kind; grasses were approximately knee-height (0.3 m). The main associates of the Savannahs in these pastures were Eastern Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*) and Grasshopper Sparrows (*A. savannarum*); other associates were Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) and Vesper Sparrows (*Poocetes gramineus*).

The Savannah Sparrows were obviously on territory, but I was unable to detect further evidence of nesting. Nevertheless, it seems certain that the species is now established in the breeding season in the county, and other Savannahs may well occur there, as suitable habitat is widespread. Observers should look for additional sites for the species in the northwestern corner of the state, especially in the western half of Alleghany County and in eastern Ashe County. It is expected that conclusive evidence of breeding will be found shortly.

LITERATURE CITED

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Additional Information on a Historical Breeding Record of the Lark Sparrow in North Carolina

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Lark Sparrows (*Chondestes grammacus*) are rare to uncommon and erratic breeding birds in the most easterly portions of their range (Baeppler 1968, Peterson 1980). The A.O.U. *Check-list* (1957) and Baeppler (1968) state the Lark Sparrow breeds in western and central North Carolina (Cranberry, rarely to Raleigh). I have been unable to find a published record of Lark Sparrows breeding at Cranberry, which is in central Avery County. *Birds of North*