

General Field Notes

DAVID S. LEE

North Carolina Editor
North Carolina State Museum
P.O. Box 27647
Raleigh, N.C. 27611

WILLIAM POST

South Carolina Editor
The Charleston Museum
360 Meeting Street
Charleston, S.C. 29403

Osprey and Cliff Swallows Found Breeding in Guilford County, N.C.

H.T. HENDRICKSON

Department of Biology
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Greensboro, N.C. 27412

On 6 June 1984 I visited Lake Townsend at Greensboro, Guilford County, N.C., and found a nest apparently occupied by an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). The nest was approximately one-third of the way up a steel tower that supports high-voltage electrical lines. The tower is in the middle of the lake about midway between Church Street and Yanceyville Road. The distance of the tower from either road prevented positive identification of the bird with 7 x 50 binoculars. I returned to the site on 7 June with a 25X telescope and confirmed that the bird on the nest was an Osprey. A third visit on 13 June still found only one bird at the nest. No second bird was seen on any of these three visits, all of which were made in the early afternoon. On 14 June I viewed the nest from Yanceyville Road at 0830 EDT and found two birds at the nest. A second bird was also present on 15 June.

Conversations with G. Rudd, Lake Warden for the City of Greensboro, and Buddy Priest, of Duke Power Company, affirm that Ospreys have nested at this location since at least 1976. Both men indicated that a second nest may have existed in the late 1970s or early 1980s. Warden Rudd claims that the adults have reared young successfully during each of the years they have been present at Lake Townsend.

I find no solid evidence for breeding Ospreys in the piedmont of North Carolina or South Carolina, although there are many records of occurrence as migrants or single birds during the summer months. This report appears to be the first published evidence of Ospreys breeding well beyond their known range in the Carolinas.

On the morning of 14 June, while studying the Osprey nest from Yanceyville Road, I also observed a single Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*) flying round the area. The rusty rump and square tail made the bird conspicuous among the many Barn Swallows (*H. rustica*). Returning to the site that afternoon, I found an occupied nest under the bridge. When I later described the nest appearance and location to Warden Rudd, he said that he had seen it last summer but had passed it off as merely a "funny-looking" Barn Swallow nest.

Cliff Swallows have already been reported as breeding at many sites in the North Carolina piedmont (e.g. Lake Cammack, Hyco Reservoir, McGehee's Mill, and Jordan Lake) as well as at a few isolated sites in the mountains and along the immediate coast.

Their nesting at Lake Townsend is consistent with a significant expansion of their breeding range into the Southeast.

I thank Richard D. Brown for suggesting that I look for Ospreys nesting in Guilford County.

First Active Nest of Alder Flycatcher in North Carolina

JERRY YOUNG

67 Laurel Haven Road

Fairview, N. C. 28730

On 11 June 1984, I observed an Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) carrying building material to a nearly completed nest. The site was 11 m S of U.S. Forest Service Road 816 and approximately 100 m W of the intersection of the Art Loeb Trail and USFS Road 816. This paved service road begins at mile post 420.2 on the Blue Ridge Parkway and terminates near the boundary of the Shining Rock Wilderness Area. The elevation at the nest site is 1804 m.

The entire nest was constructed of dry grass with smaller straws being employed for the lining. The compact cup was 0.5 m above the ground and attached to three dead blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) canes. At this date no eggs had been laid.

On 14 June I returned to the nest and found a bird incubating two eggs, which were cream colored and marked with chestnut at the larger end (Fig. 1). I photographed the bird on the nest (see front cover) but was unable to return to the site on subsequent days and therefore cannot attest to the final success of the nest.

For a number of seasons Alder Flycatchers have been seen and heard in this area as well as on Roan Mountain (Chat 43:35-36). It has been assumed that the North Carolina birds are breeding, but until my find on 11 June, no active nest had been found in the state.



Fig. 1. Nest and eggs of the Alder Flycatcher. (Photo by Jerry Young©)