

inside an inverted flat-bottom aluminum boat secured to Elwell's Ferry, which crosses the Cape Fear River near Kelly in Bladen County, N.C. The nest was approximately 1.3 m above the river, and the bird had a piece of moss in her beak when we first saw her sitting on the nest. Robert (Bob) Mitchell, the ferry operator, informed us that he had seen the bird gathering moss from the base of a Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) on the north side of the river near the ferry landing. During a follow-up visit on 18 June, we were informed that these birds had successfully fledged three or four young the preceding week. Because Prothonotary Warblers normally nest in small cavities, their nesting in such an atypical situation is interesting.

The nest was protected from adverse weather, and like many Prothonotary nests, it was over water. However, the "cavity" (boat) opening was so large that it is difficult to compare an inverted boat to any previously described nesting situation for this species. In the surrounding habitat on both sides of the river, we found Prothonotaries to be quite common in the cypress/tupelo swamp.

Mr. Mitchell informed us that Prothonotary Warblers had built a nest in the same spot the preceding year. When it became necessary to repair the boat, workers removed the nest, which contained young, and placed it at the base of a nearby cypress. Subsequently, grass-cutting crews moved the nest to a box placed at the ferry house, about 40 m from the original site. Throughout these moves the parents continued to care for the young, and they eventually fledged.

In both 1984 and 1985 the parents maintained a schedule of nest construction and parental care despite the irregular schedule of ferry crossings. As the ferry moved back and forth across the river, more than 100 m wide at the crossing, the birds, which always foraged on the north side of the river, continued to bring nesting material, to return to incubating eggs, and to feed dependent young. Adult birds returning to the nest would fly to the nest regardless of the ferry's location on the river. Birds were seen carrying nesting material and food from the swamp forest to the ferry, apparently unconcerned about its location or movement. This note documents a rather bizarre example of strong nest attachment and adaptability in parent passerines. We thank Bob Mitchell, Kelly, N.C., for bringing this nesting activity to our attention.

Spring Record of Clay-colored Sparrow for North Carolina

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On the afternoon of 13 April 1985, we visited a large farm pond on SR 1618 about 3 air miles W of Halifax in Halifax County, N.C. We were observing a flock of about 25 White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) in a thicket of willows and other shrubs near the shore of the pond. Among the White-crowned Sparrows were several Field Sparrows (*Spizella pusilla*), one or two Chipping Sparrows (*S. passerina*), and a bird that appeared to be a Clay-colored Sparrow (*S. pallida*). Many of the White-crowned Sparrows were singing, and among these songs we heard one consisting of several low buzzes, which we thought to be that of the Clay-colored Sparrow. After

about 5 minutes, we were able to observe the bird feeding on the ground at the edge of a thicket adjacent to an open field. We saw it, off and on, for several minutes, as close as 30 yards. The overall sandy, pale gray appearance was quite noticeable, and its unstreaked breast was whiter than those of the Field and Chipping Sparrows. The brownish auricular patch was distinctive, as were the dark malar stripe, the white superciliary stripe, and the white median crown stripe. Striping was very apparent on the sandy gray back. The bill was pale in color (not black), and the legs were pink. The color of the rump patch was not seen. In flight, the bird's shape resembled that of the Field Sparrow more so than that of the Chipping Sparrow because of the relatively long tail, and the flight call also resembled the *tsip* note of the former.

We have each seen Clay-colored Sparrows in the Carolinas on several occasions. The direct comparison of the above described bird with Field and Chipping Sparrows, the field marks observed, and the buzzing song heard leave us with no doubt as to the identification.

The Clay-colored Sparrow has been seen on numerous occasions in North Carolina in the fall and several times in winter; only a handful of these records are inland. However, there has been no acceptable record for the spring season. LeGrand observed one at Raleigh, for several seconds, on 9 May 1971 (Amer. Birds 25:723); but Teulings et al. (Chat 40:69-71) did not consider the record entirely satisfactory because of the brief viewing time. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were reported near Fayetteville on 18 May 1981 (Amer. Birds 35:814), but no details were provided. The Halifax County sighting appears to be the first in spring in the state observed by more than one individual as well as the first with numerous details provided.

Second Breeding Locality of Dark-eyed Junco in South Carolina

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A pair of Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) nested at Caesar's Head, Greenville County, S.C. in 1985. I discovered a family of five (adult pair and three juveniles) in the yard of T. Hendricks on 12 June, at an elevation of 915 m and approximately 300 m W of the rocky precipice of Caesar's Head in the Blue Ridge physiographic region. The habitat is mixed forest adjacent to brushy areas that enclose vacation homes situated along a ridge that faces south. The slope of the forest below is steep ($> 60^\circ$).

Dominant trees or shrubs of the forest surrounding the Hendricks home are White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), Canadian Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), and *Rhododendron* sp. Other major trees or shrubs present are Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), *Quercus* sp., and Red maple (*Acer rubrum*). Dominant shrubs in brushy areas at or near the home are *Rubus* sp., *Sassafras albidum*, *Amorpha* sp., and Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*).

The juncos spent most of the time feeding. Several young begged food from a parent, but these efforts were unsuccessful. However, both parents attended the young while the latter fed on the ground in the yard, and the female was more active than the male in this role. The male warned the juveniles and female of my approach, frequently